

Halesowen

CHRONICLE



Thursday, March 31, 2016

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BRAVE IVAN IS AN INSPIRATION

Report by Andrew Turton

"WHERE there's hope there's life. Where there's life there's hope."

Those are the words of a brave cancer patient from Quarry Bank who is facing the future with a smile thanks to a fundraising drive.

Ivan Partridge has been hailed as an inspiration for his fundraising efforts in the wake of a devastating diagnosis. The 55-year-old was last year told he had a rare form of melanoma.

In recent days he has been given a bed at Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice where he continues to have treatment.

Mr Partridge takes heart from the support of family and friends as he focuses on helping the hospice that is helping him.

His campaign has raised almost £6,000 so far with Mr Partridge hoping to push the total past £10,000.

"It has given me something to focus on," said Mr Partridge, of Patina Close.

His wife Yvonne has giving constant support ever since he first started feeling unwell in January 2015.

Mr Partridge was taken for tests after feeling tired and having a blocked nose.

But following an MRI scan came the news that he had nasal polyps and he then had his first operation to remove them.

Strong

Doctors informed the couple that Ivan had a rare strain of melanoma and would have to undergo major facial surgery. Doctors planned to remove part of his upper jaw and palate, left eye and part of his cheek in the procedure.

Yvonne, also 55, said: "He is quite a strong character." The couple, who have been together for 12 years, had been planning to get married this year in Greece but after his diagnosis decided to bring forward their wedding to Dudley Register Office with reception at Stourbridge Rugby Club.

Surgeons rebuilt Ivan's face using bone and muscle from his hip but in November the cancer had returned.

Mr Partridge decided to embark on a fundraising drive. The couple collected around £1,900 in donations for the hospice from guests at their wedding in August instead of presents. He organised a charity night at The Laurels club in Colley Gate.

Mr Partridge, managing director at Motovario, Droitwich, says his colleagues have been supportive. He also thanked his daughter Rebecca, 23, and grandson Daniyal, step-children Emma, 28, her partner Michael, Aaron 23, and Emma's children Harley and Hudson.



Ivan and Yvonne

PARENTS PRESENT CHARLOTTE MEMORIAL AWARD



Charlotte's parents Martyn and Barbara present the award in their daughter's name to eight-year-old Cradley pupil Jacob Lain

A PRIZE awarded in the memory of a Black Country girl killed in the Dunblane school massacre 20 years ago has been presented a pupil at her former school.

Jacob Lain is the first recipient of Cradley C of E Primary's Charlotte Dunn Award.

Charlotte, aged five, grew up in the Black Country and spent her reception year at the school before moving to Scotland.

In a moving ceremony last week at St Peter's Church, Cradley, where Charlotte was baptised, her parents Barbara and Martyn presented eight-year-old Jacob with the prize.

The Year 3 pupil said he was 'really happy and excited' while his father Matt, 33, said he was 'so proud'.

Mr Dunn, 55, donned a Lion King tie for the occasion in a nod to Charlotte's favourite film. He called Jacob a richly-deserving winner of the prize, awarded to a pupil who exemplifies the school's values.

Mr Dunn said: "He has set the standard for others to follow."

"It was great to see someone so proud and the smile on his face when we called his name was lovely."

The award was presented at the end of the school's Easter service. Cradley headteacher Marcia Harris, who also taught Charlotte, said: "Jacob is a lovely, sensible, gentle young man."

Despite his mother suffering from a serious illness, Mrs Harris said Jacob continues to be a fine role model for others at the school to follow.

Charlotte was killed alongside 15 other pupils and a teacher at Dunblane Primary School in Scotland on March 13, 1996, when gunman Thomas Hamilton opened fire.

HOUSING

80 homes to revamp derelict site by canal

MORE than 80 homes will be built on a derelict site in Oldbury after plans were given the green light.

Outline planning permission has been granted for the 86-home scheme on former industrial land in Mill Lane, near Telford Canal and overlooking Langley Green Park. It has been welcomed by councillors, who say the site has needed overhauling for years after a previous planning application fell through due to the financial crash.

Developer Willsgrove Developments have been given the go-ahead by Sandwell Council.

MUSIC

Up to £880 for Adele show tickets

TICKETS for Adele's shows at the Genting Arena this week are being offered for almost £900 each on the internet.

The Grammy-winning star performed at the 14,000 capacity venue on Tuesday, the first of four shows taking in Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

Official tickets sold out within minutes when the concerts were announced last year. But since then hundreds have appeared on web 're-sale' sites. Seats for Saturday night close to the stage are on sale for a staggering £880.

PLANNING

Mosque move has been put on hold

MUSLIM leaders have put controversial plans for a new mosque and community centre in Dudley on hold, saying we need to go back to the drawing board.

Dudley Muslim Association (DMA) said it needs to re-think its vision after a court ruling meant it was forced to hand back land previously earmarked for the development.

Spokesman Amjid Raza said DMA had stopped work on the plan for a new mosque since the Court of Appeal decision in November. Confirming the scheme was now on hold, he added: "We have not had any discussions about other sites. We are not going to do anything at the moment."

INSIDE

CHEERS TO PUB OF THE YEAR



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EDITORIAL: Tel: 01384 353201/01384 353205
E-mail: dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS: Tel: 01902 319453
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC:
Tel: John Sam Brooks 01902 319431

ADVERTISING: Nicola Cope
Tel: 01902 319573
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Busy MP to stand down from his council role

DUDLEY South MP Mike Wood has stepped down from his role as a councillor ahead of May's local elections.

The Conservative MP, who secured his seat in the House of Commons last May, said it was always his intention to stand down from Dudley Council.

Mr Wood has served for two years as ward councillor for Pedmore and Stourbridge East on Dudley Council but says it has become 'increasingly difficult' to continue with the dual roles.

Mr Wood, who has been dividing his time between Dudley and London, said he intended to stand aside now to 'avoid the expense' of the council holding a separate by-election ahead of May's council poll.

In a letter to council chief executive Sarah Norman, Mr Wood said: "It has been an enormous privilege to serve as a ward councillor for Pedmore and Stourbridge East for the past two years. However, since I was elected to Parliament last May, it has become increasingly difficult to fulfil the important role of being a local councillor as effectively as I would like."

"Ahead of last year's General Election, I indicated my intention to stand down as a councillor this spring to coincide with the local elections on May 5. By doing so I hoped to avoid the expense to the taxpayer of holding a stand-alone by-election, whilst allowing a replacement to be elected alongside the main set of local elections who can focus on work within the council and for the people of Pedmore and Stourbridge East."

UKIP councillor in fly Pride flag call

A UKIP councillor has urged the local authority to show its support of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community by flying the Pride flag on May 17.

Sedgley Councillor Bill Etheridge, also a West Midlands Euro MP, has endorsed calls for an International Day against Homophobia. He gave his backing to Shauna Keasey, a UKIP candidate for Sedgley, who wants Dudley Council to fall into line with Wolverhampton and Birmingham, both of which display the distinctive rainbow colours Pride flag on May 17.

Mr Keasey said: "Even in 2016 the level of homophobia around the world is unacceptable. We must show that being gay is totally normal and hatred has no place in our towns."

Two immigration arrests in Lye

TWO men from Afghanistan were arrested during an immigration enforcement operation in Lye. Police visited Khyber Mixed Grill and Pizza in High Street and arrested a failed asylum seeker, aged 21, and a 26-year-old who had entered the UK illegally.

Mr Howard said details of the incident were in his report for Birmingham County FA.

Samantha Truslove – abusive



Woman locked up for having sex on a bus

A WOMAN who was banned from Sandwell was caught having sex on a bus in full view of young children, a court heard.

Samantha Truslove was so excited her boyfriend had been released from prison that she couldn't even wait until the end of the bus ride home before getting intimate with him, Dudley Magistrates Court was told.

Truslove, of Wolverhampton Street, Dudley, had met up with Peter Walker on January 6 after he was released from prison, the court was told. They were on the back seat of a single-decker

bus driving through Cradley Heath when they were caught in the act, in full view of three schoolchildren.

Ms Linda Gudgeon, prosecuting, told the court: "It was school-leaving time and two eight-year-old boys and a nine-year-old girl had to have their eyes averted."

Truslove was jailed for 28 weeks in her absence after being removed from the dock for shouting at district judge Graham Wilkinson. She had pleaded guilty to outraging public decency and breaching an ASBO.

The 26-year-old had been given an

ASBO banning her from Sandwell borough in 2013 and was charged with breaching that order after being drunk and abusive towards police. Truslove had breached the terms of the ASBO several times since it was imposed, the court was told.

She and a former partner had been turfed out of Blackheath after making their neighbours' lives hell with their drunken behaviour.

Walker, aged 37, also of Wolverhampton Street, Dudley, was sent to prison for 17 weeks after also admitting outraging public decency.

Ref injured in violence at a children's match

A FOOTBALL referee was injured as violence flared among spectators at a children's match in Halesowen.

Oliver Howard, aged 25, was left 'battered and bruised' following the trouble that erupted while he refereed a game between two under-14s teams.

A male spectator, aged 49, was also injured in the incident during the game between Halesowen Town Colts and Halesowen Harriers under-14s.

Temps flared with several people alleged to have been involved, according to an onlooker.

Police have arrested a 52-year-old man in connection with the violence. He has been bailed pending further inquiries.

Mr Howard, who has been a referee for around five years, said onlookers came to his aid following the altercation at a Sunday match.

The referee, from Halesowen, said he was unable to go into the details of the allegations due to the ongoing police probe.

Horrible

But he did say: "I'm OK following what happened. It was a horrible experience. My concern is always for the welfare of the young players in this instance."

The 11-a-side fixture was being played in Stourbridge and District Youth and Girls Football League.

League chairman Bob Hickman said he was shocked by the incident.

"I don't get it with some people who think they are at the World Cup rather than watching junior football," he said. "I have liaised with Mr Howard since it happened and my concern was for his welfare."

Mr Hickman said violence had flared in the past, prompting the league to introduce a respect programme this season. This involves spot checks at games, education for players, and ensuring child welfare and enjoyment of the sport is a priority.

West Midlands Police spokesman Hannah Fitzgerald said: "A man has been arrested following an assault at a Halesowen amateur football match. Police were called to Newfield Park, Whittingham Road, following reports that a 49-year-old man had been assaulted. Officers arrested a 52-year-old man from an address in Halesowen. The man has been bailed pending further police enquiries."

Mr Howard said details of the incident were in his report for Birmingham County FA.



Steve Cutler, of Dudley and South Staffordshire branch of CAMRA, presents landlord Mel Wood with his certificate for pub of the year

Raising a glass to pub of the year

CHEERS! Workers and regulars at a pub in Brierley Hill are raising a glass in celebration after being named pub of the year.

The Vine in Delph Road has been crowned this year's top pub by the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) for the Dudley and South Staffordshire region.

The achievement is extra special for landlord Mel Wood, who was in charge the last time the pub won the prestigious award 20 years ago.

CAMRA judges pubs in a range of areas, including beer quality, service, atmosphere and value.

The pub, which is also known as the Bull and Bladder, is run by Black Country brewery Batham's.

Mr Wood said: "We have been in the running for the last four or five years, so it is nice to get it."

"It was a bit of a shock to win it again after all these years but it's great for the pub. It's all about the beer. The Batham's beer is very good this year."

Other finalists included the Beacon Hotel in Sedgley and the Jolly Crispin in Upper Gornal.

NEWS IN BRIEF

£6,900 goes to mayor's charities

THE Mayor of Dudley's charities appeal fund has been given a huge boost after £6,900 was raised at the annual ball.

Three hundred guests attended the sell-out fundraiser on March 18 when for the first time the Mayor's Ball was combined with the Civic Awards.

The cash was donated by guests during the evening by bidding in an auction, as well as a tombola, sit-down stand-up bingo and a raffle. Prizes and items had all been donated. Mayor Councillor Steve Walther said: "I am overwhelmed by the generosity."

Society to host talk about hall

HALESOWEN History Society will be hosting a talk about famous Black Country mansion Haden Hill House and park.

Guest speaker Ken Smith will discuss the historic background and residents of the popular heritage attraction.

The Victorian 'gentleman's residence' was built adjoining the 17th century Haden Old Hall.

The talk is at Shenstone Theatre at Halesowen Library on Thursday, April 7, at 7.15pm. Non-members are welcome to attend, admission £2.

Council's app is a download hit

THOUSANDS of people have made use of the Dudley Council smartphone app, which has received its 3,000th download.

The app allows people to report a range of issues to the council including fly-tipping, graffiti and potholes.

People can also get the latest news from the borough, see the latest job opportunities, while tenants can request home repairs.

The app is available via iTunes or the Google Play store.

Knit and natter group meet at library cafe

A KNIT and natter group is inviting people to join its sessions.

Members meet on Mondays from 5pm to 7pm and on Tuesday's from 11am to 12.30pm in the Library of Birmingham cafe.

Materials are available but if people have their own equipment they are asked to bring it along as supplies are limited to donations.

For more details on the group's activities contact knitandnatterbrum@gmail.com

Cannabis found in raid

ALMOST 30 cannabis plants were discovered during a police raid on a house in Quinton.

A drugs warrant was executed by officers at an address in Blandford Road. Police found a total of 29 cannabis plants.

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THINGS misheard. A reader recalls her two children returning from a music lesson at primary school singing: "Edelweiss, bless my old man forever."

ANOTHER reader swears he heard someone on Bargain Hunt (BBC1) showing off a haemorrhoid barometer.

RESEARCH by the Royal College of Music suggests that playing the drums in group sessions can help reduce the players' depression and anxiety. And what of the mental wellbeing of the people next door...?

INSURANCE company research shows the number of speeding drivers nabbed by police last year was up 20 per cent on the previous year. Good to see one successful growth industry, innit? Kerching!

PRESUMABLY the cops are able to concentrate on hunting down motorists because figures for recorded crime are falling. But then it's no wonder, given that crime figures are shamelessly massaged to leave out anything embarrassing. For example, my computer spam folder shows that between March 13-23 there were 88 attempts to steal personal information and take money from me. There are literally billions of these attempted thefts every year, yet they appear absolutely nowhere in any crime statistics. Mind how you go.

CLAYTON Williams, aged 19, has been jailed for 20 years for killing PC Dave Phillips during a high speed chase, just three weeks after coming out of jail on licence. This is what his lawyer told the court: "Mr Williams comes from a deprived area of Merseyside and... had a lack of education and a lack of opportunity. Lessons need to be learnt by Government that communities and young people, who are abandoned by the State, who lack opportunity and direction will sometimes turn to crime." So in this version, Williams is the victim, PC Phillips was part of the system that oppressed him and the real villains were the politicians. What a wonderful exercise in shifting the blame. Paid for, of course, by you and me.

HOW to deal with terrorists? Christine Shawcroft, a member of Labour's national executive, says we should have a cup of tea with Islamic State leaders instead of bombing them. When her comments become public, she insisted they were "ocular." So here's the joke in full. Speaking at a Labour First meeting, she imagined a voter suggesting that Jeremy Corbyn would take tea with terrorists instead of fighting them. And here's the "ocular" punchline. Shawcroft said: "Now I mean, you know, maybe we should try it!" Don't give up the day job, eh?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

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Police use Tasers on people young as 14

TASERS have been deployed nearly 700 times in three years by police in the West Midlands.

Figures reveal that people as young as 14 have had the stun gun used on them by officers.

Between 2013 and 2015 Tasers were deployed a total of 696 times in the region. They were used 230 times in 2013, 251 times in 2014 and 215 times in 2015. In 2013 the youngest

person targeted was 15. But in 2014 and 2015 the youngest target was 14.

The figures, released after a Freedom of Information request, also revealed the techniques used to fire the controversial weapon.

An 'angled drive stun' was used 26 times in the three years, which sees officers fire the Taser with a live cartridge inside and holds the device to a different part of the target's body.

This causes them to become incapacitated. A Taser was deployed in a 'drive stun' action 19 times in the period, where officers pull the trigger while it is held against someone's body. This causes pain but does not knock them out.

West Midlands Police said the figures related to how many times a Taser had been deployed rather than how many people had been 'Tased.'

Last year after it was revealed the force used them on children 46 times in a year.

Chief Inspector Danny Delaney, said: "Tasers are not drawn lightly by officers. They are used where there is a risk of violence and provide an additional option to resolve situations that can arise from all sections of the public, including under-18s. Officers have undergone detailed training."

Ban and jail sentence for 'hardened' drink-driver

A DRINK-DRIVER from Lower Gornal has been jailed and banned from the roads for seven years after he crashed into a car when more than three times the alcohol limit before the scene in Sedgley.

But Lee Bias was tracked down by the driver whose car he had hit.

Bias, aged 39, was driving his Saab in High Holborn when he hit a Peugeot, knocking off its wing mirror, and the aggrieved driver set off in pursuit.

Bias, of North Oval, had 116 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath when tested by police. The legal limit is 35 microgrammes.

Bias initially claimed he had drunk wine after returning home after the incident but later pleaded guilty to drink-driving and failing to stop at the scene of an accident.

District judge Graham Wilkinson was told that Bias had three previous convictions for drink-driving, dating back to 1994.

As he was not breathalysed immediately after the accident, Mr Wilkinson said it was likely the alcohol reading would have been higher at the time of the crash.

Jailing Bias for 20 weeks and disqualifying him, Mr Wilkinson told him: "You are a hardened drink-driver, one of the hardcore who can't get the message. For 22 years you have been willing to kill someone. You are a man who believes he can drink and drive. People like you have to learn the consequences of drinking and driving."

MP speaks out for mini-bond victims

AN MP has launched a campaign in support of hundreds of people who lost thousands of pounds in a mini-bonds scheme which turned sour.

A total of £7.5 million was invested in a scheme operated by Secured Energy Bonds (SEB). The scheme was approved by a Financial Conduct Authority authorised firm, but the money was never invested in renewable energy as promised. Most of the money was siphoned to the business's Australian parent company before it went into administration, leaving investors out of pocket.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said: "I'm really concerned that people across the country have lost nearly £7.5m after being ripped off. The authorities should make sure that no one is left out of pocket."

Bavarian fundraiser with fish and chips

TICKETS are on sale for a Bavarian-themed fundraiser on April 22 at Wilson Hall in Colley Gate in aid of Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice. Tickets for the event, at 7.15pm, cost £15 and include a fish and chips supper. Call (01384) 377778.



Black Country through and through – popular politician Councillor Darren Cooper died on Saturday, aged 52

'HE was Black Country through and through.' That's just one of the many tributes paid to Sandwell Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper after his sudden death at the weekend.

People from across the political spectrum joined former Labour Party leaders Ed Miliband, Gordon Brown and Tony Blair in paying tribute to Councillor Cooper, 52, who led the borough's authority for nearly seven years. Many suggested he had been destined for even greater things.

West Bromwich West MP Adrian Bailey said he had 'no doubt' Councillor Cooper was on track to be elected as an MP or metro mayor of the new West Midlands Combined Authority.

Mr Blair said the council leader was 'one of Labour's most committed and passionate local government leaders of the last 20 years'.

Mr Cooper was hailed as 'a true son of Sandwell' by friend Tom Watson, the deputy leader of the Labour Party and West Bromwich East MP. Councillor Cooper was elected in Soho and Victoria ward in Smethwick, where he grew up, in 1991 and became council leader in December 2009.

The father of three, who died at home on Saturday, had played a key role in bringing together the West Midlands Combined Authority in a bid to ensure the region can compete with London and big northern cities.

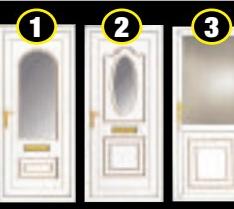
Mr Watson said: "We shall all miss Darren, a true son of Sandwell. My thoughts, prayers and love are with his wife Karen and Darren's family."

Mr Bailey, who knew Councillor Cooper for 25 years, said: "He loved public service, he loved politics and he loved the Black Country. He was Black Country through and through."

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Lots more children's events at museums

YOUNGSTERS can enjoy lots more activities with the Juniors at Museums club in Dudley this Easter break.

Free family trails will be available every day to April 10 at Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone and until April 9 at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery. There are free drop-in Sticky Saturday sessions on April 9 at Dudley Museum and at Red House Glass Cone on April 16 with the chance to have a go at messy crafts, 1.30pm to 3.30pm at both venues.

Dudley Museum is continuing its popular Family Film Club on April 9 at 11am. Dudley Museum is also hosting a drop-in 'jungle madness' family crafts day on April 7 from 10.30am to 3.30pm, for £2.35 per child.

At the Red House Glass Cone on Monday youngsters aged eight to 12 can enrol in a day-long spring theme holiday school from 9.30am to 3.30pm and take part in a range of crafts. Places cost £23 and must be booked and paid for in advance. There is the chance to make fused glass cats and dogs at the cone on Tuesday with bookable sessions at 10.30am, 11.30am and 1pm, £4.25.

Dudley Museum is open 10am-4pm Monday to Saturday, closed Bank Holidays; Red House Glass Cone opens 10-4 Monday to Sunday, open Bank Holidays. See www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums.

PARKING charges at Rowley Regis, City and Sandwell hospitals will rise by up to 16 per cent from next month, under new plans.

Hospital bosses are considering four options ranging from a 10p to 30p increase per time slot at the Sandwell and City sites. While options for increases at Rowley Regis range from 20p to 40p.

Residents will be given the chance to have their say on the proposals before a final decision is made.

By Heather Large

Healthwatch Sandwell said that it was 'disappointed' by the plans. But chief nurse Colin Ovington said the decision to raise charges followed the trust having additional maintenance and security charges for its car parks.

If the smallest increase of 10p is introduced at Sandwell and City hospitals, it will see charges rise to £2.70 for an hour, £3.70 for two hours, £4.20 for three hours and £4.70 for four hours. A 24-hour stay will cost £5.20. If the largest increase of 30p is approved the fees will rise to £2.90 for an hour, £3.90 for two hours, £4.40 for three hours, £4.90 for four hours and £5.40 for 24 hours.

At Rowley Regis the smallest increase of 20p will see fees rise to £2.70 for six hours and £5.20 for up to 24 hours. The largest increase of 40p will see fees rise to £2.90 for six hours and £5.40 for 24 hours.

Music fans take it cheesy with old hits



Nostalgia for Nicki Burrows, Brendon McKeown, James Challis, Kate Green and Dale Pickin

PEOPLE can dust off their dancing shoes with plans revealed to create a new club night to boost the Black Country's music scene.

Brierley Hill Civic Hall will host a monthly big night out with the emphasis on nostalgia in a bid to bring crowds flocking to the venue, which has undergone a revamp.

Dudley Council transferred the day-to-day management of the hall, which attracts thousands of people every year, to the Dudley Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) last year.

Now the group wants to increase the number of events held at the venue.

The hall, in Bank Street, will hold the monthly music events each Friday starting from tomorrow, costing £5 on the door.

Organisers say the Big Cheesy Nights Out will get the iconic building rocking to the sounds of the 1970s, 80s and 90s with a few more recent chart hits too.

The bar has recently been refurbished following the voluntary group's takeover of the hall in the town centre.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Criminal is jailed after 126th theft

A THIEF from Birmingham with a record of 232 previous convictions has been jailed for 48 weeks following his latest crime spree.

Kevin Osborne of Corporation Street, Birmingham, racked up his 125th and 126th thefts when he stole two Dyson vacuum cleaners, Dudley Magistrates Court.

District judge Graham Wilkinson told Osborne, aged 44, that he had a 'truly appalling record' and that the only way for him to learn was by being sent to prison.

The court heard how Osborne had embarked on a thieving tour of the country, striking in locations as far apart as Cardiff, Leicestershire, Suffolk and Grimsby, among other places.

Park secured after traveller invasions

ACTION has been taken to stop travellers taking caravans onto a Halesowen park. Hurst Green Park was repeatedly targeted last summer prompting Dudley Council to step up security.

Extra bollards have been installed at the Moat Drive entrance. Ward councillor Hilary Bills said: "The work is now complete and the park is secure."

Traveller invasions last July and August cost the council thousands of pounds in clear up costs.

Earlier this week more than 40 caravans moved onto a car park at Castlegate Way, Dudley.

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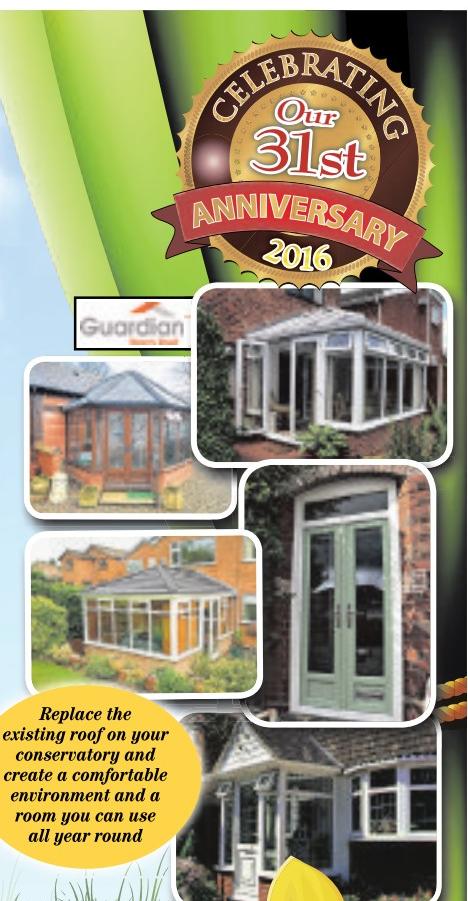
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Basement for £70m? I'm in the wrong job

MY first reaction to reading about tycoon Robert Beecham's plans for a £70 million underground basement in Primrose Hill, central London, was that I must be in the wrong job.

The application, approved by Camden Council, includes a Roman bath, juice bar, and room to store his cigar collection. And, according to the reports, Mr Beecham has made his money out of Star Wars bubble bath.

My second thought was about why people go to these lengths just for the sake of living in central London.

You would think somebody enterprising enough to make billions out of Darth Vader detergent would have the imagination to realise that there is life north of the Watford Gap, where there is also cleaner air and plenty of space to build as big a cigar room as you could possibly want.

But then I read that the project will cause noise and disruption for Jamie Oliver. In that case, bring on the bulldozers.

□ □ □

THERE have been a lot of changes to West Bromwich in recent years. Most of them positive.

Yes, there was the disastrous Public arts centre, which in reality became a very expensive public toilet, but that was years ago, and it at least looks like lessons have been learned from that debacle.

And the New Square shopping development is a prime example of what can be achieved when local government works with retailers and developers, and gives the people what they want, rather than what they should want.

However, one thing that has never been addressed is the dreadful road layout. One-way systems, no-entry signs, no-left turn, no-right turn.

Every time I have been down there in the hunt for the very limited number of free, on-street parking spaces – and wild horses would not make me pay for car parking – I have become lost in the nightmarish road system.

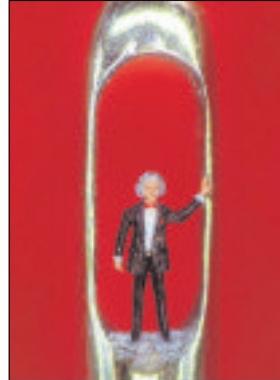
And more often than not, I seem to end up by the bus station.

Have I broken any traffic regulations? I hope not, but in all honesty, it is possible.

Anyway, the council has now decided to undo much of the good work by installing a CCTV camera on one of the bus-only roads. It will no doubt prove to be a gold mine, raising a fortune from all the confused motorists, but I'm not going to be one of them. I think I will be steering clear of West Bromwich for a while.

□ □ □

MEMORY like a sieve, me. Completely forgot all about Earth Hour on March 19, when we were supposed to turn out our lights as a gesture towards fighting global warming. Never mind, did mine between 1am and 2am on Sunday, to mark the start of British Summer Time. Better late than never.



The minuscule Noddy Holder figure



Music legend Robert Plant



Willard seen with his unique viewing stations to magnify the artworks



Wild man of rock Ozzy Osbourne

Willard getting to the point for next display

NICK HUMPHREYS talks to the creator of amazing microscopic figures Willard Wigan as he plans a new exhibition

BLACK Country rock legend Noddy Holder and micro-sculpting star Willard Wigan look set to join forces again with a mini monsters of rock show.

Willard unveiled his incredible sculpture of the Slade frontman in the eye of a needle at Wolverhampton's Light House.

And such was the reaction from both Noddy and the crowd, that the acclaimed artist wants to create a legends of rock music exhibition in the West Midlands.

He plans to create sculptures of Led Zeppelin, Robert Plant, ELO as well as Black Sabbath frontman and West Midlands music legend Ozzy Osbourne. Mr Wigan said: "What we have done is we have started something here. I want to celebrate the West Midlands and the legends of rock music."

"I am going to New York to film a commercial for Nestle where I'm going to be carving the world's smallest piece of chocolate.

Legends

"But when I come back, I'm going to make sculptures of Led Zeppelin, Robert Plant, ELO, Ozzy Osbourne and other legends of rock and we're going to hold an exhibition in the West Midlands. I'd like Noddy to host it for me."

"I want to celebrate music and the West Midlands. The 60s and 70s was the best era for music, it still influences young people today."

Walsall-raised Noddy hopes the Light House exhibition and the rock legends one, which is being planned, will make people sit up and take notice that the Black Country has talent. He said: "The thing is, you go around the world and people hear you speak and they think you're thick. People say we've got nothing here. I always say, 'well have you ever been?' They've never experienced the warmth of the people, it's the people that make a place.



Willard Wigan with the ex-Slade singer at the launch of his exhibition at The Light House

I don't live here any more but my heart is always here. You never lose your roots."

Mr Wigan added: "I think of the people who have come from here, you've got Noddy, myself, Denise Lewis, Goldie, the list goes on. There are talented people from here, so people shouldn't think that because they come from the Midlands they can't go on to achieve big things."

"The Queen of England was so overwhelmed by my work she gave me three letters," added Mr Wigan, who was given an MBE in 2007 for his services to art.

The sculpture of Noddy is the main attraction at the exhibition, which features more than 20 miniature masterpieces.

All the works have been created in the eye of a needle, set on a plate and mounted underneath a microscope inside a perspex bubble.

After becoming visibly emotional and

shocked at the likeness of the tiny artwork to himself, in which he's wearing a sharp suit and has his trademark wild hair, he warmly embraced and thanked the creator.

Noddy, aged 69, said: "To have someone who is at the top of the tree at what they do to make something like that, it's probably the biggest honour I've ever had, and I've been a professional in the music industry for 50 years. He is the biggest and the best in the world at what he does."

"When I look at it, it is me! When I saw that he'd done it I had to come and see it in the flesh, and it is just brilliant. I am honoured that he has done this for me."

Mayor of Wolverhampton Ian Brookfield and city MP Rob Morris were among the admirers of Willard's work at the exhibition, as well as West Midlands stars Jemma Bird, of The Apprentice fame, drummer Fuzz Town-

shend, singer Connie Talbot from Britain's Got Talent and voice artist Marc Silcock.

On his incredible work of Noddy, Willard said: "When I set about to do this, I thought is there anybody worth me putting in the eye of a needle?"

"There are a few, but I thought is there anyone from my hometown that has made such a big influence on the world. Someone from the West Midlands."

"Then I thought, I know who he is, because my mum keeps singing his songs every Christmas! She's passed away now but I still here her singing his songs."

"His name is Noddy Holder, one of the greatest rock legends of all time."

"I wanted to make the biggest, smallest tribute to the man on this earth."

He added: "Noddy has had that massive impact on the world that will live on forever, this huge legacy."

"I thought about putting the whole band in the eye of a needle, I could have done it."

Other works on display include Jesus Christ with his disciples at the last supper, trees depicting the four seasons and the evolution of man. There are also sculptures of Frozen characters Elsa and Olaf, UFC superstar Conor McGregor, Bugs Bunny and Mario and Luigi among the intricate pieces.

Willard added: "The message is to never underestimate something small. I was told by my schoolteachers that I would amount to nothing. I would be cleaning out bins because I was stupid. I was used as an advert for failure because I had a learning difficulty."

He cites his mother as one of his biggest inspirations. He said: "She always said you can say a lot but mean nothing, or you can say a few words that mean a lot."

To create such tiny artwork, Willard has to work between heartbeats and become relaxed into a meditative state, as the smallest movement can destroy his work.

The tools used to create the sculpture were personally manipulated and fashioned by Willard to include as a chisel – a shard of diamond; and a syringe as a style of holder.

The hair of an aphid fly was then used to finally paint the sculpture, whilst using the claw of the fly to hold him still whilst applying the paint. The exhibition runs until May 2.

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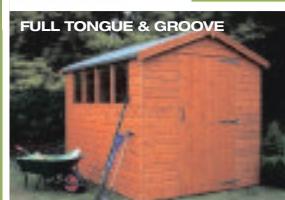
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The myth of EU intelligence sharing

EUROPE abounds with myths and legends and when these are only confined to literature, they are absorbing reading.

However, when myths are spread by governments with a particular agenda to spin, that is quite another matter. I have always thought that the propaganda that being in the EU means that intelligence/security services cooperate, share information and thereby defeat those wishing to reduce us to our basic atoms is total balderdash.

As in France and currently, sadly in Belgium, it is clear that co-ordination and shar-

Garden city, truth or Lye?

ing of intelligence across the EU is at best very poor (in Belgium, even between police and intelligence services).

Furthermore, that much-admired EU pol-

icy of free movement never mentions free movement of jihadis, bomb-making equipment and arms across Europe. Once inside the porous EU's Mediterranean borders, movement of these murderous psychopaths together with their equipment is made easier.

A M ETHERIDGE
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

The commuters are ruining town trade

MY business partner and I, along with two clients, watched as two traffic enforcement officers took photos and gave parking fines to two drivers who had parked in the road in Roseville, Coseley.

Yes, I admit they had parked on yellow lines but anyone who either owns a business in Coseley, or tries to come to Roseville to use the shops, will I'm sure agree that getting a parking space anywhere near is virtually impossible.

And the reason being is because the railway users are now taking over virtually every space available, just leaving the odd one here and there and that's if you can get into the space they have left that they expect someone to be able to wedge into.

If you park on the library one of their workers tells you to get off, or leaves little notes on your car if he doesn't want to tell you face-to-face.

My question is this – why should we pay when we're using the shops and the railway users get off scot-free when they either work miles away or do their shopping elsewhere by train.

I think now it's time the council does something before our shops close due to lack of custom and Coseley becomes just one massive car park.

R WILLIAMS
Brierley Hill

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R WILLIAMS
Brierley Hill

AS the closure of our art museum has been confirmed, may I suggest that as many people as possible get to see the room which is given over to Dudley's great artist Percy Shakespeare.

He was a working class boy who managed to become an internationally acclaimed painter before his untimely death in World War Two.

The way his work is displayed in a small room of this iconic building shows the pictures perfectly, and should be seen in their natural place while there is still the opportunity.

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R WILLIAMS
Brierley Hill

Friday not as Good as it was

HAVE people forgot the meaning of Good Friday?

When I was growing up 40 years ago all that was open was shops selling wet fish and veg.

There were no other shops open – no cinemas, no buses ran till after 4pm, programmes on TV were all religious and not the rubbish that's on these days. Public houses were only open after 6pm.

Every shop nowadays is money grabbing. It was nice walking down the town to do window shopping with most of them shut and most had Easter eggs in and my children would see how many they could find to receive a prize and all money made would go to the local hospital.

Most streets would do an Easter egg hunt and there were prizes.

They do nothing nowadays for the children. They just stay indoors watching TV or playing on computers. We had fun in the 1950s/60s/70s, it's no fun these days for children.

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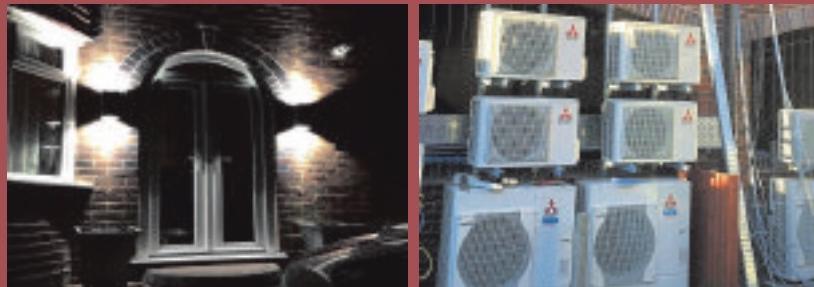
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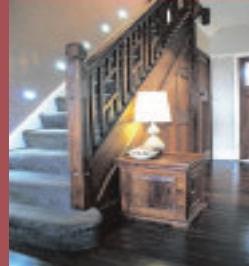
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Speeding car killer is given a longer prison sentence

A SPEEDING motorist who was jailed for killing a pedestrian has seen his sentence increased by appeal court judges.

Omar Tariq, aged 31, of Denton Road, Stourbridge, was driving a Mercedes E250 which struck 39-year-old Peter Price as he was crossing Hagley Road West, in Quinton, in November 2014.

Initially Tariq drove on but then stopped and called 999 to get help for the injured Mr Price. He went on to claim his girlfriend had been driving but later admitted causing death by dangerous driving.

He was jailed for three years and four months at Wolverhampton Crown Court but the term has now been increased to four-and-a-half years at the Court of Appeal by Lord Justice Gross.

Tariq was not insured to drive the car, which was a courtesy vehicle his girlfriend had received, but was 'keen' to get behind the wheel, the judge said.

He drove for about 1.7 miles, hitting speeds of up to 93mph in a 40mph zone, and was travelling at 69mph when he hit Mr Price.

Danger

"This was not one of those cases where momentary inattention results in a fatality and the tragic consequences greatly exceed the culpability," said Judge Gross.

"To the contrary, the central feature of this case was prolonged speeding, greatly in excess of the limit, and disregarding the great danger to others."

Tariq was jailed in January but his case was back in court after a reference by Solicitor General Robert Buckland QC on the basis his sentence was too soft.

Barrister Paul Jarvis, representing Mr Buckland, argued that aggravating features of the case meant the sentence imposed was 'unduly lenient'.

Lord Justice Gross, sitting with Mr Justice Males and Judge Steven Kramer QC, increased the sentence to four-and-a-half years.

A FATHER-OF-THREE died after working in factories with asbestos, an inquest heard.

Surinder Ruprai, from Dudley, had worked in several factories in the Midlands during his career as an engineer from the early 1970s.

The 67-year-old enjoyed keeping fit but discovered he was losing his breath quite easily in 2014.

After going to the doctors he was told he had fluid on his right lung. He was diagnosed with mesothelioma in September that year, an inquest heard. Despite chemotherapy and radiotherapy, he died on March 12.

Concluding a verdict of death by industrial disease, Coroner Zafar Sidique said: "We have heard how he was a proud and loving family man who will be sadly missed."

"As he worked as an engineer in different factories he would have come into contact with asbestos."

"Therefore he died by way of industrial disease."

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Congestion as major route goes one-way

MOTORISTS face at least another week of roadworks with a main road heading into Stourbridge being a temporary one-way route.

Since Friday traffic has not been able to exit the Stourbridge ring road onto the A491, meaning motorists face detours in an already notoriously congested area.

National Grid is replacing gas mains at High Street, Amblecote. The work will result in the road becoming one-way from Wollaston Road. Motorists will be able to get onto the ring road via Amblecote but traffic will not be able to go in the opposite direction.

Lengthy diversions have been set up which will mean drivers heading north towards Wordsley will have to head down Bridgnorth Road, onto Wollaston's High Street and join Wollaston Road before finally being able to get back onto the A491.

Essential

It is likely to mean a major headache for people heading out of Stourbridge at rush hour.

The work was due to begin over the Easter weekend but National Grid said it expects the work to continue until at least April 10.

National Grid spokeswoman Jane Taylor said: "We apologise for any disruption this causes for motorists but we can assure them that the work is essential."

Me? Old? Says Nellie, aged 107



Nellie Cook, formerly of Halesowen, celebrates her 107th Birthday at Prestwood House in Stourbridge

SHE has seen five reigning monarchs and 25 Prime Ministers come and go. And even though Nell Cook has just turned an incredible 107 years of age, she insists she still 'doesn't feel old'.

The former factory worker, who lived in Halesowen for 25 years, now lives at the Prestwood Nursing Home in Prestwood near Stourbridge, welcomed in her birthday on Saturday with visits from friends and family.

Miss Cook, who is a keen knitter and donates blankets to Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge, said: "I don't feel old. But I don't really know what the secret is!"

Staff at the care home baked her a special knitting-themed cake for her big day.

Miss Cook, has outlived all of her five siblings and many of their children too.

She was born Ellen Cook on March 26, 1909, in Birmingham, the daughter of Amelia and Arthur Cook. The family ran a corner shop.

Miss Cook went straight into work after leaving school aged 14. She had

five brothers and sisters, Edith, Ameilia, Ethel, Fred and Arthur.

She moved to Prestwood in May after a fall, having previously spent 25 years in Halesowen.

Miss Cook said: "I'd like to thank all the staff here for what they do and also those from Lyttleton House who came and brought presents for me."

Miss Cook commented on how much society had changed. "The way people live their lives now is different to when I was younger. Things are so much quicker now," she said.

A DERELECT warehouse near Stourbridge will be converted into flats under new plans.

A total of 16 flats would be created on the former Billinge Holdings site in Careless Green, Wollescote, which has been empty since 2010.

The plans have been recommended for approval with a final decision expected to be made by Dudley Council's planning committee on Monday, April 4.

Warehouse conversion plan to create 16 flats

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Sickening attack on a blind victim



Find this man - this is the suspect wanted in connection with the attack on a blind man as he was being guided to a car

AN ATTACKER who sprayed an acidic substance into the face of a blind man is being hunted by police.

This is the man (pictured) who is wanted in connection with the attack on the defenceless victim in Halesowen.

The 54-year-old was being guided to the passenger seat of a car parked on Belgrave Road, Shell Corner, when the attacker approached and squirted a liquid into his eyes.

The substance caused a painful burning sensation and the man was taken to hospital. He was treated for minor injuries and later discharged but has been left terrified following the sickening attack.

The liquid was analysed by experts and found to have an acidic pH level. Police chiefs said they believe it may have been a targeted attack. They have now called for anyone who recognises the attacker to come forward to help them track him down. The attack happened at around 4pm on February 1. In the images, he is seen wearing a black tracksuit, a grey woolly hat, dark sunglasses and a black scarf.

Contact Pc Surinder Sangha at Smethwick Police Station on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Campaign to combat diabetes risk factor

NEW projects aimed at helping people at risk of developing Type 2 diabetes is being launched in Sandwell and Dudley.

They are two of 27 areas across the country due to begin offering the scheme, which included help with healthy eating and exercise programmes.

The schemes are part of the national NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme aimed at helping patients change their lifestyles. GPs will invite people they know to be at high risk to enrol.

There is currently almost 100,000 people in Birmingham, Sandwell and Solihull with Type 2 diabetes, which is said to be largely preventable through lifestyle changes. Around 150,000 are thought to be at risk.

Prevention

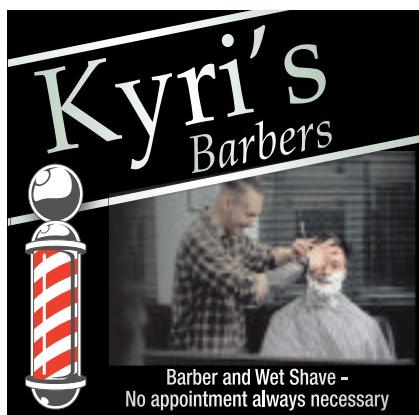
The new programme is being led by Birmingham South Central Clinical Commissioning Group. Chairman Andrew Coward, who is also a GP in Kings Norton, said: "Since we started our pilot prevention programme a year ago, we have seen targeted support make significant improvements to the health and wellbeing of our communities. It's great news that similar help will now be available across Birmingham, Sandwell and Solihull."

In the next 20 years alone there will be an excess of 700,000 cancer cases attributable to obesity, making the case for prevention an absolute necessity."

Dr Kiran Patel, medical director at NHS England West Midlands, said: "Obesity and lifestyle-related issues have taken their toll. The complications of diabetes cost society and the NHS £10bn a year. This programme will get advice and practical help to a group of people who can drastically reduce their risk of developing the condition and associated complications, including amputation and blindness."

By Heather Large

news that similar help will now be available across Birmingham, Sandwell and Solihull.



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storm



Goat-to attraction is zoo over Easter holiday

DUDLEY Zoo has geared up for a busy Easter period, including the unveiling of two new attractions.

The school holidays kicked off in style with the opening of Flamingo Falls and Macaques on the Bank.

The new £120,000 attraction Flamingo Falls will see the existing exhibit enhanced to create a much bigger pool and a larger indoor area with a viewing space to get a real close-up.

There is also a chance to win a year-long adoption for Maisie the giant rabbit - who tips the scales at a whopping 14lbs - by taking part in the annual Easter bunny trail around the zoo.

Marketing manager Andrea Hales said: "We've got lots lined up throughout the holidays to make your day out really egg-cellent. There's something for all ages to

enjoy as well as the chance to get close to some of the world's rarest animals, while learning about our important conservation work during our daily talks and animal feeds."

Elsewhere across the 40-acre site, visitors can meet a pair of newborn African pygmy goats and newly-hatched chicks as well as rabbits, chickens, ducks and pigs on the zoo's own farm.

There are also Easter card crafting activities in the barn and colouring fun in the Oak Kitchen at the Queen Mary Restaurant, where youngsters can design their Easter egg while mum and dad tuck into cakes and snacks.

Visitors will have extra time to see their favourite animals as the zoo has adopted its summer hours, with last entry at 4pm and the site closing 90 minutes later.



Senior keeper Lesley Lewis with some of the farm animals, including the zoo's twin African pygmy goats

Diversity awareness TV award for Lenny

SIR Lenny Henry has been awarded a surprise fellowship of the Royal Television Society at its Programme Awards for his work raising awareness of the need for diversity in the industry.

The Dudley-born comedian and actor was also presented with the Judges' Award in recognition of his commitment to increasing minority representation in the industry.

He won particular praise for his 2014 Bafta Television lecture on the topic. That saw him criticise British TV hits including Broadchurch, Miranda and Midsomer Murders for being 'too white'.

He said the shows had fewer black actors than similar US programmes and were not representative of modern Britain and also warned that British black actors may leave the UK to find work in America.

Accepting the two awards, Sir Lenny said: "I'm so truly humbled by this, thank you so much for the fellowship. I'm truly hopeful that this award is a pan-industry acknowledgement that diversity must be at the heart of our industry now and most importantly in the future."

Aldi bosses looking out for 50 new apprentices

ALDI is looking to recruit 50 apprentices in the West Midlands this year with more than a dozen shops in the Black Country to benefit.

The company will have more than 700 apprenticeship vacancies for branches across the UK, as part of its apprenticeship scheme.

In the West Midlands, there will be vacancies in Dudley, Netherton, Brierley Hill and Halesowen. Apprentices will also be recruited at shops in Oldbury, Stourbridge, Wednesfield and Wolverhampton.

Applications for the scheme opened earlier this month to coincide with the start of National Apprenticeship Week, and will close in October.

Marius Manolescu, regional managing director at Aldi, said: "The Aldi Apprenticeship Scheme has been hugely successful in delivering hundreds of roles for dedicated people nationwide in the four years since we launched the scheme.

Opportunity

"We're now looking for a record number of candidates to join one of the most dynamic and fast-growing retailers in the UK, with a proven track record in developing and progressing its staff."

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Old luggage evokes the golden age of travelling

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

By John Ridgway of Perry and Phillips



THERE is nothing quite so evocative of travelling in days gone by as pieces of vintage luggage.

No matter how battered and worn they are, they still conjure up images of rail travel in its heyday, car trips to the seaside, ocean voyages aboard a luxury liner and even early plane flights.

Today they look great displayed in the home and always provide a talking point – plus they offer extra storage space.

Old suitcases and trunks are especially of interest if they still feature labels from trips in days of yore and if they are personalised with name and address details.

Look out for hat boxes, vanity cases, carpet bags (think Mary Poppins) and sets of matching luggage – even blanket boxes used for travel purposes, especially those with little brass name plates.

Smaller items will include travel perfume sets, complete with little glass bottles, and gentlemen's leather grooming bags.

Any item of luggage carrying 'famous' labels, linking it to a voyage with White Star or Cunard for example, will be of great interest to collectors so if you are keen to buy be prepared to spend quite a bit.

It is still possible to find luggage that once belonged to ocean liner personnel, such as seaman's trunks, again these may prove pricey but they look terrific in almost any room.

And of course there are maker names to look out for, such as Louis Vuitton, Gucci and Prada.

Louis Vuitton founded his legendary company in 1845, opening a packing and box-making workshop in Paris and going on to make stackable trunks suitable for rail travel.

He quickly became successful, expanding his workshop and earning a bronze medal at Napoleon's Exposition Universelle in 1867.

In 1872 he introduced a red and beige striped canvas trunk, sold as a luxury item, and the rest is history. His son Georges took over the company in 1892, creating the company's famous logo of flowers, diamonds and circles, and in 1914 the Louis Vuitton building

became the biggest travel goods store in the world with Coco Chanel as its patron, and travel bags that remain popular today such as the Steamer bag, the Keepall and the Papillon were manufactured.

Now a worldwide company, Prada began life in Milan in 1913, when Mario Prada started to produce shoes, handbags and trunks.

The famous Prada suitcase was initially manufactured from walrus skin but as travel by plane became more popular lighter bags were needed.

The company went into decline during the 1970s but was revitalised in 1979 when Miuccia Prada became head of the family business, introducing luxury tote bags and backpacks, and now of course the name Prada is synonymous with high-fashion luggage.

Gucci Gucci worked as a young man at the Savoy Hotel in London during the 1920s and was very impressed by the high-quality luggage owned by guests – so much so that he returned to his native Italy to start a small luggage company in Florence.

He made luggage and other luxury leather travel goods, expanding during the 1930s and using canvas rather than leather when the latter was scarce during the war.

Once again now a famous worldwide product, Gucci luggage was especially popular during the 1960s when it was much favoured by the so-called 'jet set'!

As always, check the condition of vintage luggage before you buy; any damage should be reflected in the price.

Perry and Phillips hold valuation days for sale items only every Wednesday 10am until 4pm at their Mill Street saleroom in Low Town, Bridgnorth. Auctions of antiques and collectibles are held on the first Tuesday of each month.

Bourbon soaked southern sounds

ALBUMS

by Leon Burakowski

TEXAN outfit White Denim deliver the kind of soulful southern rock that ruled supreme on TV's The Old Grey Whistle Test back in the mid-1970s.

Think Allman Bros, Little Feat, Lynyrd Skynyrd but add more contemporary influences such as The Black Keys and Kings of Leon as this Austin band offer a sixth album, **Stiff**, that should win many new fans.

Opening track Had 2 Know echoes classic rock with it's Reelin' In The Years guitar on a riff that sounds like a revamp of the Rockford Files theme. Ha Ha Ha You (Yeah) has a real swagger with a Led Zep-like riff, while Holda You (I'm Psycho) has a strong Creedence Clearwater Revival feel.

Singer guitarist James Petralli showcases his sweet soul vocal on the aptly entitled Take It Easy (Ever After Lasting Love) and on the swampy (I'm The One) Big Big Fun. Real 60s Momma pays homage to the organ-led 60s Texan beat sound of Sir Douglas Quintet and Mirrored In Reverse boasts a monster southern boogie riff.

It's retro sounding stuff but if you like your music bourbon soaked and hickory smoked, this is sure to please.

Talking retro, **Teddy Thompson** – son of British folk legends Richard and Linda – teams up with female American singer **Kelly Jones** for harmonious duets in the style of the Everly Brothers and Buddy Holly on **Little Windows**.

Highlights include country ballads Better At Lying and You Took My Future, honky tonk chugger Only Fooling and rockabilly number You Can't Call Me Baby. At their best, the duo are reminiscent of Emmylou Harris and



White Denim – their sound is a modern update of classic 70s southern rock

Gram Parsons in the early 70s. Teddy Thompson & Kelly Jones are in concert at Birmingham Glee Club on May 4.

Welsh singer-songwriter **Melyr Jones**, formerly of the band Race Horses, returns with an English language album, **2013**, inspired by a trip to Rome. His baroque pop is akin to such mavericks as The Divine Comedy's Neil Hannon, Kevin Rowland and sometime collaborator Gruff Rhys, of cult Welsh band Super Furry Animals.

Highlights include the whimsical Don Juan with its flutes and harpsichord-like keyboards, the philosophical musings of Love and the Dexys meet Primal Scream stomp of How To Appreciate A Work of Art.

Melyr Jones is in concert at Birmingham city centre's Sunflower Lounge on April 27.

London-based **Rosie Lowe** creates an impressive synth-soul album on her sophisticated debut **Control**, lyrically dealing with the harsh and sometimes brutal realities of love and relationships from a female perspective. Fidgety electronics are kept in check within lush soundscapes that enhance

Lowe's smooth vocal with dreamlike atmospheres. Lowe also produced her album, alongside Kwabs and Jessie Ware producer Dave Okuma. Check her out if you like The XX.

Quirky Japanese pop-punk female trio **Shonen Knife** celebrate their 35th anniversary with a typically cartoonish punk offering on **Adventure**, including the Ramones-inspired Rock 'N' Roll T-Shirt (it sounds like Rock 'n' roll Rhodesia). Shonen Knife are at Birmingham's Academy 3 venue on April 16.

Three years on from debut **Absolute Zero**, Irish outfit **Little Green Cars** return with a captivating second album of emotional semi-acoustic rock, **Ephemera**.

Featuring the plaintive Neil Young-like tones of Stevie Appleby and more strident Annie Lennox-like vocal of Faye O'Rourke, this Dublin band specialise in stripped back emotive songs, warm harmonies and introspection. The moody What Women Do is a fine showcase for O'Rourke, as is The Garden of Death for Appleby. Check them out if you like Fleetwood Mac or Crowded House.

Russians deliver a traditional classic for a Grand night of ballet heritage

Swan Lake, **Wolverhampton Grand** THE most famous of all ballets was performed to a packed house at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre as The Russian Ballet State Ballet of Siberia delivered a solid, very traditional version of Swan Lake.

It was refreshing to hear Tchaikovsky's gorgeous music performed by the company's own orchestra, under the baton of Alexander Yudasin, as the Krasnoyarsk-based troupe are one of

the very few dance companies to tour with orchestra.

The costumes and sets were a little old fashioned but traditional values and heritage are part of the Russian character.

Sergei Bobrov's company are very well drilled, extremely strong and athletic but lacking somewhat in conveying emotion.

Even with up to 25 dancers on stage, the performers were so precise in their

positions on the relatively small stage that it never looked too crowded or at risk of a swan pile-up.

Mana Kuwabara was excellent in the dual role of bewitched swan princess Odette and her wicked alter-ego Odile. With her flashing eyes and lightning fast pirouettes, it was no surprise that her glamorous black swan persona seduced Ivan Karnauchov's Prince Siegfried.

Leon Burakowski

Ellie will be missed by the fans

REVIEWS



'We're all in this together' says David Carlyle's mayor, left, with Richard Clews at the Rep

This frenetic farce passes its inspection with flying colours

The Government Inspector, Birmingham Rep

LET'S hope that this fast-paced farce, directed by the Rep's artistic director Roxana Silbert, gets a life beyond its short UK tour – because it was the most eye-wateringly hilarious night in the theatre I have enjoyed since the all-conquering West End hit One Man Two Guvnors.

Adapted by David Harrower from the 19th century Russian play by Nikolai Gogol, this comedy is about the panic that ensues among corrupt civic leaders of a small Russian town when they learn a Government inspector is secretly visiting them in their

'beyond the back of beyond' settlement. Things get even more chaotic when they mistake a boastful waster from the big city for the all-important civil servant.

Made as part of the Ramps On The Moon project, the cast of disabled and non-disabled actors created an excellent ensemble.

Highlights of this dark comic treat included David Carlyle's frenetic performance as the mayor, bringing to mind both Leonard Rossiter's slippery Rigby and John Cleese full-on bonkers Basil mode. As a pompous posh chancer, Robin Morrissey recalled Richard E Grant as vainglorious Withnail.

Leon Burakowski

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One of the pictures of the then Princess Elizabeth at Castle Bromwich in 1949



Hazel seen as a young woman during the 1940s



A group of women, including Hazel, back, third from left, at the E&S in the 1940s



The entrance hall at the Express & Star's head office



The printing presses in action at Queen Street, Wolverhampton, bringing the news to a 1940s readership

Hazel's birthday hope for extensive digital archive

A FORMER newspaper librarian who was responsible for cataloguing thousands of historic photographs celebrated her 90th birthday recently.

And she believes there would be no better present than to see the Chronicle's sister paper, the Express & Star's latest photo archive campaign be successful – so generations to come can learn about the area and enjoy the nostalgia of looking back on iconic moments in time.

Hazel Jones, who lives in Penn, worked at the newspaper's HQ in Queen Street, Wolverhampton for seven years from when she finished school in 1942. Her duties included storing and maintaining an archive of photographs that today encompasses one million images dating back more than a century.

Now, she is backing the E&S's bid to digitise the collection, preserving them for generations to come. The plan,

MEMORY LANE

Report by Nick Humphreys

set up with the university of Wolverhampton and WAVE – the museums, galleries and archives of Wolverhampton, has been awarded development funding of £59,800 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The funding is used in order to develop plans to seek a full grant for the project.

Hazel told the Express & Star of her hopes for the bid, and how she realised: "I think it is a really important project. I'd like to see it happen. It's a historical collection which has been gathered over such a long time. Hopefully the bid is successful and people can enjoy the images for years to come."

The collection has an estimated one million prints stored, covering events and people featured in the pages of the newspaper during the 20th Century. They document around 100 years of Wolverhampton life and the history of the city and its people collectively share.

She said: "I met lots of people doing that job, all sorts of people throughout the building, right from the owners down. I was very much a junior member of staff."

"In the early days, a lot of the photographs weren't dated or captioned. It was only as I carried on with the job over the years that I realised how important these photographs could be for people to look back on."

After the Express & Star, Hazel moved down to London to work for Mirror Group newspapers, before returning north to Wolverhampton after retiring.

Both jobs were a dream for Hazel, who has a keen interest in photography herself. To mark her birthday, she celebrated by having tea with friends.

Express & Star editor Keith Harrison said: "Photographers from the Express & Star have been on hand to photograph events and communities across the Black Country for more than a century.

"This collection documents the people who make this region so great and the history they share. They tell hundreds of thousands of stories."



Hazel Jones, the former E&S photo librarian, at work



Hazel seen visiting the archives at the Express & Star couple of years ago, with some photos she brought in



Salsa dancer Norma's new smile would get a 'ten from Len'

Norma Aston –
all my confidence
is back

APICTURE snapped at a dance group's farewell party to mark a friend's departure to Jamaica showed more than what vivacious Norma Aston was expecting.

As the well-wishes were made and memorable dancing stories exchanged amongst members of the Uksalsafeet classes at Willenhall's Chart Centre, the cameras and smart phones did their work.

But a single profile shot of Norma captured a different story to all the other photographs taken at that event.

"My teeth had been troublesome for years,

but when I saw the photo and realised just how far forward my top teeth had moved I knew I had to get something done. It was a turning point for me," recalls Norma of Willenhall.

The youthful 60-something-year-old salsa enthusiast, who attends classes every Saturday to help perfect her technique in this pastime made popular by programmes like Strictly Come Dancing, adds: "There were a number of things that came together which encouraged me to get things sorted.

"I had seen an article in my local paper about a woman who had a long-standing problem resolved by Denture Clinic Principal

Steven Burchell [Dip CDT RCS(Eng)] with an implant retained over-denture."

Adds Norma: "I knew what I wanted and already had in mind an implant denture.

"At the same time, my step-daughter was encouraging me to see her implant dentist, the well-respected Dr Owain Rees.

"Dental work is such a visual thing and unlike hospital surgical work we get to choose who undertakes it. It was so important for me that I made the correct choice."

Enthusiastic

Husband Don, a former design engineer and dance band frontman, who met Norma 32 years ago while playing at the Corpus Christi Centre, Wednesday, takes up the story: "We'd done some research, but websites can really say anything and it's not the same as getting an impression face to face. When we saw Steven he was so enthusiastic about his work and instilled confidence in us that his clinic would be able to do the job well. But I had one searching question that was really important to me. I told him 'I know my wife' and then asked: 'Will she still be the same after the work is completed?'

"Steven was very reassuring and told me she would look the same, but with better teeth. We were never pressured and told



North Street's dental implant surgeon, Dr Owain Rees (left) BDS, DGDP (UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL) GDC 61576 with principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353

to go away and think things through before making a decision."

With referrals in-house, Norma was seen by North Street Dental and Implant Clinic surgeon Dr Owain Rees BDS, DGDP (UK) DIP IMP DENT (UCL). Under one roof, with four modern surgeries, the clinical discipline of high quality denture provision sits side by side with general, cosmetic and implant dentistry. Norma's treatment plan included intravenous sedation, the placing of six lower implants to support a removable overdenture and a traditional upper denture prescription. The former City Hospital accounts manager, says: "Knowing that Owain was going to do the surgery was great.

"He explained everything and I embraced the treatment plan.

"I'd always cared for my teeth, but I have a family history of gum problems and for more than 20 years I'd had a partial denture. I never realised it didn't fit properly until I saw Steven. I'd just grown into it."

"My new teeth . . . I couldn't ask for more and I'm amazed at the difference. They look so natural," she adds. Don agrees her new smile is "stunning."

Confidence is back

Norma enjoys a hectic lifestyle juggling dancing with personal commitments and volunteer stints at the Locksmith's House, Willenhall, a well-preserved piece of living Victorian history.

"I love working there and Don helps too. I used to be self-conscious of my smile when meeting people and was always careful how I smiled. Now I have all my confidence back and my only regret is that I didn't get my teeth sorted out three years ago."

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Volunteer in driver's seat of sports car restoration



At the Black Country Living Museum, Keith Peckmore returns to work on the sports car he helped make in the 1950s. It was like driving back in time for retired engineer Keith Peckmore when he was asked to help restore a sports car he built more than 60 years ago.

Mr Peckmore was part of a team that made the 1100cc Kieft car, which was unveiled for the Earls Court Motorshow in 1954.

More than six decades on, he has been restoring the classic car, which can reach speeds of more than 100mph, at the Black Country Living

Museum in Dudley. Once a month, the group of volunteers at the museum drive the cars around the site to delight of the visitors.

The car was specifically made for the motor show and Mr Peckmore believes it was given to Anne, the daughter of Kieft Cars founder Cyril Kieft, as a 21st birthday present. It was given the number plate AK 123 - AK for Anne Kieft.

Kieft Cars were a British company that built Formula Three racing cars, with their headquarters at Derry Street in Wolverhampton. The two Kieft cars that were on display at the 1954 show had fibreglass bodies and were reported to have been the first ever produced from a single mould as a complete unit. The cars were the first to score an international win using a Coventry Climax engine.

Retired engineer Mr Peckmore, who has been part of the museum's volunteer team of eight engineers for five years, only laid eyes on the model again in 2002 at Mr Kieft's memorial in Tattenhall. It was later donated to the Black Country Motor Group, which has had it since 2008.

He said: "It was a wonderful feeling to be reunited with the car again."

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Carpenter George in action in the pit compound around the late 1950s



Alveley was a modern mine compared to others. Picture: Robert Evans collection

When rural villages were home to coal pits

IT'S been a long time since 88-year-old George Poyner worked at Alveley Colliery, but you can still see his handiwork today.

This site of toil, industry, dirt and sometimes danger has in modern times been transformed into Severn Valley Country Park. And a few years ago George applied his skills to recreate one of the wooden coal-carrying tubs for display in the park's visitor centre.

Over 70 years ago teenage George was part of the colliery team which turned out the original wooden tubs during wartime – they were paid 12 shillings (60p) per tub – until about 1945 it was decided to replace them with metal ones.

This was just one of his many and varied duties as a pit carpenter in a career which spanned 26 years.

He is a living link with the days when this part of rural Shropshire, near the Worcestershire border, had a number of coal mines.

All are long gone with Alveley, the last survivor in these parts south of Bridgnorth, closing in January 1969. Shropshire's last pit of all, at Granville, shut in 1979.

The day of the Shropshire miner had passed.

Durable

George continues to turn his hand to household projects like bird tables and, naturally, has a workshop at his Highley home.

He did the woodwork for his conservatory himself.

"I haven't done anything big lately," he said.

"My favourite wood is mahogany. I like oak as well. It's quite durable."

George started working at the colliery at the age of 14 on leaving Highley School in 1941.

"It was the only thing you could do in those days. There was nothing much else. I was working in the carpenters' shop and fitting shop. It was smashing, and I really enjoyed it there."

Although he was generally a surface job, he would often need to go underground.

"In the workshops when I started I remember Harry Latham, a shaftsman, Alma Honeybourne, Fred James, Fred Guy and Erm James, a sawyer who left after a few months. The colliery manager was Mr Machin who was well respected by most people."

"I was lent a saw, hammer and chisel by another carpenter, George Elcock, and my first job was making a roller box. This was a wooden box which contained a cast iron roller. This fitted between the rails."

Loaded

"In those days the coal was loaded into tubs and these were pulled along the rails by a wire rope attached to a haulage engine. The roller box stopped the rope from dragging on the floor."

The colliery was virtually brand new.

"It was sunk in 1935/6 and had only been in full production since 1940. Alveley had nice new brick workshops, offices, a lamp room, winding house and ambulance room."

"My first experience underground was when I was 15. I went down with Alan Kelly,

MEMORY LANE

By Toby Neal

a fitter, to drill holes, 1.5 inches diameter into a baulk of timber for a tension screw for a haulage rope."

A little while ago we published a photo dated 1948 of an unidentified group of people who we thought were from a colliery in Bridgnorth area.

George, and George alone, came forward to say who they were office staff of the colliery pictured, he thinks, on the lawn in front of the colliery offices.

He named them as: back row, Tom Cadwallader, Olive Link, Dennis Bache, Doreen Giles, Ted Warrington, and possibly Joan Childs. Front row: Harold Powell, Wilbur Lloyd, Marie Price (nee Robinson), Denise Davies, and Keith Holford.

For George, who lived at the time in one of the miners' houses at Woodhill Road, pit work was very much the "family business" and for a while in the 1950s six of his family worked at Alveley Colliery.

His father John (Jack) Poyner was one of those who looked after the horses underground - they had though been phased out by the 1950s - and had worked at Kinlet Colliery before transferring to Highley.

"Kinlet Colliery was started in 1893 and closed in 1937. The winding house still stands close to the New Road on the Kinlet side of the brook."

"Alma Honeybourne told me a lot about Kinlet pit while we worked in the shops."

"The wooden headgear was built by a carpenter called Spider Matthews. The winding house took quite a battering when the scrap men moved in to take away the engine."

Shaft

"They did not want the winding rope and so they thought they would let it down the shaft."

"However as more and more rope went down the shaft it gathered speed and it ran away with itself. This caused the winding engine to explode, blowing the roof off the engine house. However the walls are still standing."

Before Alveley Colliery came along there was too, over the river, Highley Colliery.

"It was sunk in 1878 and was the first large mine in the village. It was closed for coal winding when Alveley started but the two pits were connected underground."

"Highley was kept open to serve as an air shaft; air went down the shaft at Alveley, around the workings and then was sucked up the Highley shafts by a fan."

The Highley name was to persist even after production there ended. Confusingly, the name "Highley Colliery" was often applied to the pit at Alveley.

George, incidentally, invariably calls where he worked "Alveley Colliery", which of course accurately describes where it was.



George Poyner in his workshop at home in Highley



George can still recall the people on this picture of office staff from the colliery

A teenager who became lost victim of the war



A decent burial at last – Carr's grave

APRIL 10, 1941, was a bad day for RAF Tern Hill, just one of many such bad days.

As a training base for pilots, it was used to fatal accidents. Indeed, in only a 21-day period during that month at the air base near Market Drayton a total of 11 young men were killed.

But there was to be something special about the death of John Toplis Carr in a mid-air collision which would see it resonate through history. Carr, who was only 19, became a lost victim of the war, because his body was not recovered.

In the years that followed Leading Aircraftman Carr's mother was to die without realising her greatest wish – tracing her son who had been officially listed as "missing presumed dead".

With the Ministry of Defence announcing the closure of the Clive Barracks at Tern Hill, his story highlights some of the human history of the site. What made Carr's story remarkable and different was that it was nearly 40 years before his remains were recovered and he was given a decent burial.

His Miles Master trainer aircraft came down in a peat bog at Helsshaw Grange Farm, south west of the airfield. A recovery crew went to the site at the time of the crash, but the soft state of the ground made it too dangerous to retrieve Carr's body.

Ultimately all attempts were abandoned. There was a funeral service in situ, and the crash site was simply fenced off and left.

Fast forward to October 1978, and enthusiasts from the Shropshire Wartime Aircraft Recovery Group, which had only been established the previous April, were given permission to investigate the site using an excavator. And so, at last, many years after the end of the conflict, Carr's remains were recovered. The team even found an old spade which had been used in the original abortive salvage attempts.

Breakthrough

But was there any family left alive to tell about the discovery? Attempts by the Ministry of Defence to trace anybody drew a blank. Its records revealed his parents had lived in Eastbourne. However, by then the house – and even the road they lived in – no longer existed.

The breakthrough came with the reporting of the inquest into his death, which was held in Wellington. The inquest verdict was "accidental death." The publicity led to a surviving relative being traced in South Africa.

Carr was buried with full military honours in April 1979 at the huge wooded 500-acre Brookwood Cemetery in Surrey. Wartime Aircraft Recovery Group members Mr David Thorp and Mr John Wright attended the funeral with Carr's relatives and friends and RAF officers. But what had happened on that fateful day in 1941? The details are covered in the book Pancakes & Prangs by Shropshire air crash researcher Tom Thorne.

"The pupil pilot was taking off from the airfield when, for unknown reasons, he collided with another Master which was approaching to land. Both aircraft crashed out of control onto marshy ground near the airfield."

"Assistance was called for from 34 MU (Maintenance Unit), Monkmoor, to help in the recovery of the wreckage but, despite their best efforts, the body of LAC Carr could not be recovered."

The other victim of the crash, in the second plane, was Leading Aircraftman Denis Michael Whittam Hartley, also 19. He is buried at Basildon.

fast theticket

**Love ya
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Annie preview –
Page 21



Perfect

Eddi Reader –
See Page 21



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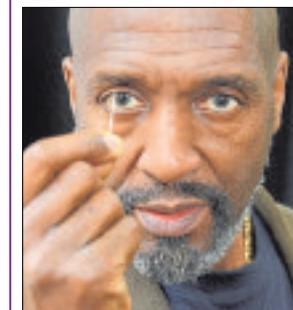
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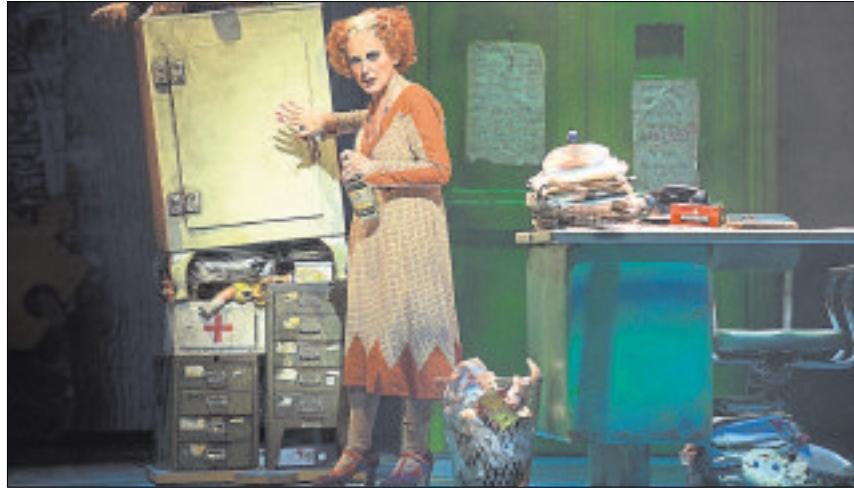
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Lesley's new role as horrid Hannigan



Lesley Joseph as Miss Hannigan in the hit musical *Annie*, which is coming to Wolverhampton Grand Photo: Paul Coltas

BIRDS of a Feather star Lesley Joseph will turn from Essex matron into gin-soaked American orphanage boss when ever-popular musical *Annie* arrives in Wolverhampton next week.

The actress, who found fame as snob neighbour Dorien in the hit sitcom co-starring Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson, is now taking on the role of Miss Hannigan, the spiteful harridan who attempts to cheat poor

little orphan Annie after she becomes the favourite orphan of billionaire Daddy Warbucks.

Set in 1930s New York, the show features such popular songs as *Tomorrow*, *It's the Hard-Knock Life* and *Easy Street*.

Lesley Joseph is relishing her role when the show is staged at the Grand Theatre from Monday to Saturday, April 9.

"This is a brand new production

of *Annie*, and it's very exciting," she says. "I get to be very horrible but I try to make my Miss Hannigan a little bit vulnerable because she's got a rotten life, she's stuck in an orphanage with no money looking after kids in the middle of The Depression."

"It is, however, a fun family musical and that's what I love – you can bring your granny or your grandchildren, and the little girls all want to be *Annie*."

Perfect for inspiration

Perfect for inspiration

SHE made her name with the group Fairground Attraction and their BRIT award-winning 1988 number one hit *Perfect*, the first in a hat-trick of BRITs for the Scottish singer Eddi Reader has spent the biggest part of her life working as a solo artist.

She is one of Scotland's best loved singers and sang in 2004 at the opening of the Scottish Parliament, and was awarded an MBE for outstanding contributions to the arts in the New Year's honours list of 2006.

Reader is back on the road with a solo tour that will reach Birmingham's Glee Club on Sunday, April 3, when she is looking forward to showcasing her favourites from a lifetime's worth of songs.

"I don't have secrets," she says. "I love songs and stories. I am inspired by life around me."

"I love artists like Louis Armstrong. I identify with him. There are so many brilliant human beings past and present. Kids inspire me most of all, they remind me of living in the moment."

"When I left home, I was full of adventure and wanderlust. I met like-minded people and we all conjoined on a river bank in the South of France. We ate together with the money we all made by presenting our talents in the streets of Avignon, Nimes and Uzes. It taught me about sharing, listening and selling a song without a microphone."

"I never had a plan. I just aligned myself to songs I liked and they put me in all kinds of situations."

The Final Straw for Otway and Barrett

HERE are some of the week's big highlights:

Tonight (Thu) veterans John Otway and Wild Willy Barrett bring their Final Straw Tour to Bilton's Robin 2.

Tomorrow Montreal rock band The Besnard Lakes bring their Pink Floyd-like soundscapes to the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath.

New Yorkers the Big Ups play Birmingham city centre's Sunflower Lounge on Saturday.

Jim Jones brings his latest band, The Righteous Mind, for raw rock at the Hare and Hounds on Tuesday, then psychedelic rockers The Vryll Society are at the same above-the-pub venue on Wednesday.

Comedy nights spring into action

THE 'Mouth of the South' – AKA comedian Rob Beckett – is coming to Shropshire and Staffordshire on his spring tour.

The toothy blond comic, known for his appearances on *Mock The Week* and *8 Out Of 10 Cats*, at The Place at Oakengates, Telford, on Saturday before returning to the region at Stafford Gatehouse on April 16, Burton's Brewhouse Arts Centre on May 19 and at Lichfield Festival on July 4.

Humour has a regional flavour at Wolverhampton Grand tomorrow night (Fri) with a Black Country Night Out featuring Jonny Cole, The Fizzogs, Dandy and The Ronaldos.

Familiar faces in murder mystery

FOLLOWING his decade-long success with The Agatha Christie Theatre Company, theatre impresario Bill Kenwright has created The Classic Thriller Theatre Company.

Its first production, *Rehearsal For Murder*, is staged at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday, April 9. The cast of familiar faces from TV include Ben Nealon (from *Soldier Soldier*), Robert Daws (Poldark), Susan Penhaligon (Bouquet of Barbed Wire), Robert Duncan (Drop The Dead Donkey), Lucy Dixon (Waterloo Road), Amy Robbins (The Royal) and Steven Pinder (Brookside).

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CHOICE



Patricia Routledge

Beatrix Potter with Patricia Routledge (Channel 4, 8pm)

Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Beatrix Potter, this documentary sees Patricia Routledge following in the footsteps of the Edwardian publishing sensation. She discovers what fired the author's imagination and where her love and understanding of animals was born. As an actress, Patricia played Beatrix on stage in the 1990s. In her present role as patron of the Beatrix Potter Society, and with access to rare drawings, letters and artefacts held at the V&A Archive, she discovers the woman behind the myth. Previously seen on More4.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.** **10.00 Saturday Kitchen** Live. (R) 12.30 MasterChef. (R) 12.00 BBC News; Weather. **12.10 Football Focus.**
- 12.50 Saturday Sportsday.** **1.00 Bargain Hunt.** (R) **2.00 Homes Under the Hammer.** (R) **3.00 Escape to the Continent.** (R) **4.00 Final Score.** **5.20 Now You See It.** 5.50 BBC News.
- 6.00 Regional Programme.**
- 6.10 Can't Touch This.** A pest controller, a "dosey-do" dancer, and a former member of a boy-band are among the 16 contestants battling their way through a giant obstacle course. The heat of laying hands on the contestants within. **Zoe Ball and Ashleigh Banjo** provide as the competitors tear through the prize-filled gauntlet, which culminates in a giant leap of faith that could net them the grand prize. Narrated by Sue Perkins.
- 7.00 The Voice UK.** The semi-finals arrive, along with the nail-biting tension associated with another round of live performances. The remaining contestants must once master their nerves and take to the stage to determine whether the tutelage they've received at the hands of Will.i.am, Ricky Wilson, Paloma Faith and Boy George has paid off. As was the case last week, the identities of those would-be stars progressing through to the grand final will be decided by the viewers at home, who are encouraged to take part in a public vote to determine which act will leave the contest.
- 9.05 Casualty.** Connie decides to call off her romance with Jacob, but has second thoughts when he gets trapped in a partially collapsed building. Meanwhile, Ethan shares his bad news with Lily.
- 9.55 The National Lottery Live.** The winning numbers are revealed.
- 10.05 BBC News;** Weather.
- 10.25 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Liverpool v Tottenham Hotspur at Anfield and Norwich City v Newcastle United at Carrow Road. National Lottery Update.
- 11.55 Film:** **Salvage.** (2009) A woman searches for her missing daughter when a deadly creature hides out in her neighbourhood. Horror, starring Neve McIntosh.
- 1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead.** **1.15 BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.30 Film:** **I Remember Mama.** (1948) 8.40 **The Women's Football Show.** (R) **9.10 Film:** **A Star Is Born.** (1964) **11.00 Natural World.** (R) **12.00 Rick Stein: Fresh Visions to Start You Off.** **1.00 The Best Dishes Ever.** (R) **1.30 Judy Astaire and Gene Rogers Talking Pictures.** (R) **2.20 Film:** **Easter Parade.** (1948) Romantic musical, with Fred Astaire and Judy Garland. **4.00 Flog It!** (R) **5.00 Big Dreams Small Spaces.** (R)
- 6.00 Gardeners' World.** Monty Don gets to work on his wildlife garden, ensuring there are plenty of plants in flower for early pollinators. Plus, Carol Klein visits a shaded yet thriving garden. (R)
- 6.30 Bake Off:** **Crème de la Creme.** Tom Kerridge welcomes three teams of pastry chefs to the first heat of this contest. They are challenged to make more than 100 perfect miniature pastries in three hours for judges Benoit Blin, Cherish Finden and Claire Clark to inspect and taste. Contestants must then reinvent the apple crumble as a showpiece dessert, complete with a towering edible sculpture. (R)
- 7.30 Tribes, Predators & Me.** Gordon Buchanan joins a group of Bushmen in Botswana's Kalahari Desert to learn about and witness some remarkable survival tactics among wild lions. They teach him how to make fire, find honey, and gather water from desert plants, and the filmmaker watches as they hunt with poisoned arrows and track predatory lions. (R)
- 8.30 Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring and the platoon offer to help Pte Godfrey's widowed friend gather in the harvest on her farm – but their well-meaning efforts end in predictable chaos. (R)
- 9.00 John Le Mesurier: It's All Been Rather Lovely.** A portrait of the prolific actor's life and career, from his turbulent marriage to Hattie Jacques to his role as Sergeant Wilson in the wartime sitcom Dad's Army. (R)
- 10.00 Film:** **Quartet.** (2012) Three former singers' plans for a fundraising concert for their retirement home are disrupted by the arrival of a famous diva. Comedy drama, with Maggie Smith and Billy Connolly.
- 11.35 Film:** **The Lady.** (2011) **1.40 This Is BBC Two.** **5.45 Great British Garden Revival.** (R)

ITV

- 6.00 CITV:** **Bottom Knocker Street.** **6.15** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25 Dino Dan:** **Trek's Adventures.** (R) **6.35 Dino Dan:** **Trek's Adventures.** (R) **6.45 Signed Stories:** **Share a Story.** (R) **6.50 Soothi.** (R) **7.00 Superheroine.** (R) **7.15 Little Miss Sunshine.** (R) **7.35 Scrambled:** **Mr Beem:** The Animated Series. (R) **7.50 Scrambled:** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10 Scrambled:** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.30 Scrambled:** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **9.05 Scrambled:** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **10.20 Murder,** She Wrote. (R) **11.15 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **12.20 ITV News;** Weather. **12.29 Regional Programme.** **12.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **1.30 Judge Rinder.** (R) **2.30 The Chase.** (R) **3.35 Planet's Got Talent.** (R) **4.00 Film:** **Nanny McPhee.** (2005)
- 6.00 Regional Programme;** Weather. **6.15 ITV News;** Weather.
- 6.30 New You've Been Framed!**
- 7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** The double-act take their weekend showcase away from the confines of the studio, setting up shop on the deck of a cruise ship in Barcelona for their series finale. This week, The Hobbit star James Nesbitt takes the helm as guest announcer, while TV personality and pop star Peter Andre gets to Singalong Live with his most famous hit, Mysterious Girl. The culprit is finally unveiled in Who Shot Simon Cowell? and tennis star Andy Murray receives a grilling from precocious mini-presenters Little Ant and Dec. The hosts enter ITV's infamous Cube for one last round of Ant v Dec, and one unsuspecting passenger receives a huge surprise. Plus, a lucky audience member is given a chance to Win the Ads, and the Geordie duo round off the with an all-singing, all-dancing End of the Show Show. Last in the series.
- 8.30 You're Back in the Room.** Former motorcycle racer Carl Fogarty and ex-Tower star Joey Essex join Phillip Schofield and illusionist Keith Barry for the hypnotism game show.
- 9.35 The Jonathan Ross Show.** **10.30 ITV News;** Weather.
- 10.45 Film:** **Hot Fuzz.** (2007) Action comedy, starring Simon Pegg. **12.50 Jackpot247.** **3.00 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

- 6.15 How I Met Your Mother.** (R) **6.40** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.45 Dino Dan:** **Trek's Adventures.** (R) **6.50 Signed Stories:** **Share a Story.** (R) **6.50 Soothi.** (R) **7.00 Superheroine.** (R) **7.15 Little Miss Sunshine.** (R) **7.35 Scrambled:** **Mr Beem:** The Animated Series. (R) **7.50 Scrambled:** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10 Scrambled:** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.30 Scrambled:** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **9.05 Scrambled:** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **10.20 Murder,** She Wrote. (R) **11.15 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **12.20 ITV News;** Weather. **12.29 Regional Programme.** **12.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **1.30 Judge Rinder.** (R) **2.30 The Chase.** (R) **3.35 Planet's Got Talent.** (R) **4.00 Film:** **Nanny McPhee.** (2005)
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- 10.45 Film:** **Hot Fuzz.** (2007) Action comedy, starring Simon Pegg. **12.50 Jackpot247.** **3.00 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!** **8.55 The Fairly OddParents.** **9.30** The Saturday Show Live. **11.30 Police Interceptors.** (R) **12.25 Police Interceptors.** (R) **1.25 Rookies & Raids:** A Police Interceptors Special. (R) **2.25 Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies.** (R) **3.20 Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies.** (R) **4.20 Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies.** (R) **5.15 The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies.** (R) **6.10 NCIS: Los Angeles.** The team investigates where a man of intelligence commander responsible for tracking the movements of a Venezuelan politician disappears.
- 7.00 NCIS: New Orleans.** Two US Navy foremen are recruited at a Naval Branch health clinic, and with a little help from Brody's mother Olivia, the team discovers the two dead men had been tasked with delivering a heart for a transplant operation. The planned recipient was a skilled Dapra programmer with a rare blood type, but the killers made sure to ruin the procedure by putting a bullet through the organ before making their escape. However, when the heart in question turns out to be a decoy, the team begins to suspect the culprits may have stolen the real one for a criminal with a heart defected from the FBI's most wanted list. Naval crime drama, guest starring Annie Potts.
- 8.00 NCIS.** The team uncovers a fraudulent charity that preys on those searching for missing military personnel while investigating the murder of a retired Master Sergeant.
- 8.55 5 News Weekend.**
- 9.00 The Championship:** Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches from the Championship, including Hull City v Bristol City and Brighton & Hove Albion v Burnley.
- 10.00 Goal Rush:** Football League Tonight. A round-up of the latest matches in League One and League Two, including Burton Albion v Bury, Shrewsbury Town v Wigan Athletic and Mansfield Town v Northampton Town.
- 10.30 NCIS: Greatest Ever Episodes.** (R) **11.25 NCIS: Greatest Ever Episodes.** (R) **12.15 SuperCasino.** **3.10 Law & Order:** Special Victims Unit. (R)

DIGITAL

- BBC Four**
- 7.00 Treasures of the Indus** **8.00 Human Planet** **9.00 Follow the Money** **11.00 TOTP2:** 80s Special **12.00 Boy George and Culture Club:** Karma to Calamity **1.00 Top of the Pops:** 1981 **1.10** The Almost Impossible GameShow **1.30 Scorpio 2.25 Film:** A Little Princess (1995) **3.25 FYI Daily** **3.30 Film:** A Little Princess (1995) **4.25 Britain's Got More Talent:** Top 10 Comedy Moments **5.30 Film:** Happy Feet (2006) **6.30 FYI Daily** **6.35 Film:** Happy Feet (2006) **7.00 Film:** The Mummy Returns (2001) **8.00** Celebrity Juice **10.50 Family Guy** **11.45 American Dad!** **12.45 Film:** The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) **1.25** Teleshopping **1.45 Film:** The Hot Desk (2006) **2.45 Teleshopping**
- ITV2**
- 11.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway** **12.35 The Almost Impossible GameShow** **1.30 Scorpio 2.25 Film:** A Little Princess (1995) **3.25 FYI Daily** **3.30 Film:** A Little Princess (1995) **4.25 Britain's Got More Talent:** Top 10 Comedy Moments **5.30 Film:** Happy Feet (2006) **6.30 FYI Daily** **6.35 Film:** Happy Feet (2006) **7.00 Film:** The Mummy Returns (2001) **8.00** Celebrity Juice **10.50 Family Guy** **11.45 American Dad!** **12.45 Film:** The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) **1.25** Teleshopping **1.45 Film:** The Hot Desk (2006) **2.45 Teleshopping**
- ITV3**
- 1.25 FYI Daily** **1.30 Film:** Carry On Matron (1972) **2.15 A Touch of Frost** **4.25 Film:** Columbo: The Bye-Bye Sky-High IO Murder Case (1977) **6.00 Midsummer Murders** **8.00 Foyle's War** **10.00 Inspector Morse** **12.25 Blue Murder** **1.55 Doctor in the House** **2.20 ITV3 Nightscreen** **2.30 Teleshopping**
- E4**
- 3.15 Film:** The Rowhedge Years (1956) **4.00 Film:** Dr No (1962) **5.00** FYI Daily **5.05 Film:** Dr No (1962) **6.15 The Snooker Mavericks** **7.15 Film:** Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **8.15 FYI Daily** **8.20 Film:** Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **9.00 Film:** Driven to Kill (2009) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05 Film:** Driven to Kill (2009) **11.00** Live **FIFA Formula E Championship:** The Long Beach ePrix. **1.30 Hell on Wheels** **2.30 Hogan's Heroes** **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00 Teleshopping**
- Film4**
- 1.00 Sister Act (1992)** **3.05 Stuart Little (1999)** **4.45 Jungle 2 Jungle (1997)** **6.45 Adventures in Babysitting (1987)** **8.50 Oblivion Interview Special** **9.00 Alien (1979)** **11.15 The Moth Diaries (2011)**

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CHOICE



Keeley Hawes

The Durrells (ITV, 8pm)

New series. In 1935, beleaguered Bournemouth mother Louisa Durrell decides to uproot her family and build a new life on the sun-drenched island of Corfu. However, with money problems and four unruly children to care for, even a new start might not be enough to banish her troubles. Period drama, starring Keeley Hawes, Josh O'Connor, Milo Parker, Daisy Waterstone, Callum Woodhouse, James Cosmo, Alexis Georgoulis, Yorgos Karamihos, Anna Savva, Max Befort, Ben Hall, Nick Orestis Chaniotakis, Andrew Bicknell, Graham Seed and Hara Ermida, based on Gerard Durrell's trilogy of Corfu memoirs, which includes My Family and Other Animals.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Wanted Down Under Revisited. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** The One Show. (R) **2.15** Secret Britain. (R) **3.15** Escapes to the Country. (R) **4.00** Points of View. **4.15** Songs of Praise. **5.00** Life on the Run. **6.00** Paul O'Grady: The Sally Army And Me. The presenter teaches troubled teenagers how to bake, helps a homeless man who has finally got a roof over his head to move, and is persuaded to perform a rap song. **6.30** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** Countryfile. An episode devoted to cattle, in which Matt Baker meets a farmer who got into the business after a fund-raising campaign on social media, who discusses the current state of the beef trade. Helen Skelton visits a tannery using traditional methods to produce leather, and Anita Rani meets an artist who paints on vellum. Adam Henson meets another of this year's Countryfile Farming Hero nominees, and Charlotte Smith asks if large indoor dairy herds are a more efficient way of making milk. Including: Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The team values more decorative objects and rarities. **9.00** Undercover. New series. Legal drama, starring Sophie Okonedo as the director of Public Prosecutions, who uses her position to bring about justice for a murdered activist. With Adrian Lester. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Leicester City v Southampton at the King Power Stadium and Manchester United v Everton at Old Trafford. **11.35** Film: Butterfly on a Wheel. (2007) A couple's daughter is kidnapped by a criminal who forces them into a course of action that will ruin their lives. Thriller, starring Pierce Brosnan. **1.05** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.45 This Farming Life. (R) **7.45** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.15** An Island Parish. (R) **8.45** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.15** Countryfile. (R) **10.15** Saturday Kitchen. Best Bites. **11.15** Sunday Evening Extra. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Film: Silk Stockings. (1957) Musical, starring Fred Astaire and Cyd Charisse. **2.55** Flog It! (R) **3.30** Figure Skating. **5.00** The Hairy Bikers' Northern Exposure. (R) **6.00** The Secret History of My Family. Documentary charting 200 years of social history by exploring different family trees. (R) **7.00** Bletchley Park: Code-Breaking's Forgotten Genius. Mathematician and cryptanalyst Gordon Welchman was one of the original elite codebreakers at Bletchley Park and played a crucial part in the Allies defeating Germany. After the war, he moved to America to work at the heart of the computer revolution and was employed by defence contractor the Mitre Corporation, where he was involved in top-secret research. In this programme, academic John Naughton and former CIA analyst David Sheppard explore how Welchman's pioneering work in the field of traffic analysis led directly to today's secret state surveillance, as revealed by whistleblower Edward Snowden. (R) **8.00** Natural Born Winners. The athletes visit Turkey, where they learn oil wrestling from one of the sport's greatest champions. When they watch a match, they realise it is more dangerous than they thought. **9.00** Tribes, Predators & Me. Gordon Buchanan travels to Papua New Guinea, where he meets a tribe that lives alongside crocodiles and is taught to hunt the predators with his bare hands. Last in the series. **10.00** Thirteen. Ivy is forced to risk her life and confront her past to save Phoebe, as the Moxam family is plunged into the same horror they faced 13 years previously. Last in the series. **11.00** The People v OJ Simpson: American Crime Story. Detectives work closely with the prosecutors to find flashier evidence for the jury. (R) **11.40** Film: Snow Cake. (2005) **1.25** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.20** Holby City. (R) **3.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.15** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Tree Adventures. (R) **6.45** Signed Starling Share a Story. (R) **6.50** Soothi. (R) **7.05** Scrambled: (R) **7.15** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** FIA Formula E Championship. **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **13.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40** River Monsters. (R) **2.40** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **3.40** Off Their Rockers. (R) **4.10** Film: The Living Daylights. (1987) James Bond adventure, starring Timothy Dalton. **6.35** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.40** ITV News; Weather. **7.00** The Chase Celebrity Special. Bradley Walsh presents as DJ Scott Mills, actress Sunetra Sarker, boxer Anthony Ogogo and TV presenter Johnny Ball pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught. **8.00** The Durrells. New series. In 1935, beleaguered Bournemouth mother Louisa Durrell decides to uproot her family and build a new life on the sun-drenched island of Corfu. However, with money problems and four unruly children to care for, even a new start might not be enough to banish her troubles. Period drama, starring Keeley Hawes, based on Gerard Durrell's trilogy of Corfu memoirs, which includes My Family and Other Animals. **9.00** Home Fires. New series. The WI of Great Paxford live under a shadow as the Battle of Britain looms. Pat befriends a Czech soldier, but finds independence less enjoyable than expected. **10.00** ITV News; Weather. **10.15** The Olivier Awards 2016. **12.00** Premiership Rugby Union. **12.55** Jackpot247. **3.00** ITV Nighstcreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Friends. (R) **9.00** Formula 1. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.00** Formula 1: Bahrain Grand Prix Live. The Bahrain Grand Prix (Start-time 4.00pm). **6.30** Speed with Guy Martin: F1 Special. Ahead of the new Formula 1 season on Channel 4 this weekend, Guy Martin goes head to head with racing legend David Coulthard in the ultimate test of bike against car. With David in a Red Bull RB8 Formula 1 car and Guy on his Tyco BMW Superbike, the pair race in a series of challenges including a drag race, a brake test, slalom and a full-on circuit race. There's also entertainment in the pit as they compete in physical and mental challenges, testing their fitness and endurance and exploring the science behind their chosen racing machines. (R) **7.30** Channel 4 News. **8.00** Great Canal Journeys. Timothy West and Prunella Scales' waterway adventures. Last in the series. **9.00** Indian Summers. The club holds a fashion show, but the glamorous evening turns ugly when a horrifying attack is aimed on a guest. The identity of the culprit remains a mystery. Ralph takes it upon himself to play detective and bring the perpetrator to justice himself, but the truth turns out to be more terrible than he could have imagined and threatens to leave his political career in tatters. Elsewhere, Sirene continues to cause chaos in Simla, as she clashes with Cynthia and wreaks havoc in Ralph and Madeleine's marriage. **10.00** Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R) **11.00** Formula One: Bahrain Grand Prix Highlights. **12.00** Film: I Love You Phillip Morris. (2009) **1.45** Embarrassing Bodies Down Under. (R) **2.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.50** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. **5.05** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Ticky Toc. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.20** The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. (R) **7.35** Princess. (R) **7.45** Pip Ahoy! (R) **7.55** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.20** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.35** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.50** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.00** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.20** LazyTown. (R) **9.45** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.20** The Championship: Football League Tonight. (R) **11.20** Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. (R) **11.50** The Gadget Show. **12.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.45** Greatest Animated Movies. (R) **4.40** Film: Legends of Oz: Dorothy's Return. (2013) Premiere. Animated fantasy, with the voice of Lea Michele. **6.20** Film: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. (1937) Premiere. Disney animated version of the Brothers Grimm story about a princess driven from her home into a sinister forest by her evil stepmother. She is taken in by a group of kindly dwarf miners, but her happiness is threatened when her stepmother returns, having eaten a poisoned apple. The first ever feature length animated movie, with the voices of Adriana Caselotti and Lucille La Verne. **8.00** Now That's Funny! Featuring failures in 3D and some unlucky beginners. Plus, the latest stars of the week. **8.55** 5 News Weekend. **9.00** Penn & Teller: Fool Us in Vegas. Jonathan Ross is enlisted to help two of the world's greatest illusionists, assisting on a card trick and an act involving drawing. Plus, a performer attempts to use mental trickery on Penn and Teller and a fourth act makes animals disappear and comes up with a new twist on the classic cup and ball routine. Finally, Penn and Teller recruit a member of the audience for a knife-throwing act. **10.00** Film: Carrie. (2013) Premiere. A teenage girl finally snaps and uses her psychic powers to avenge herself on the bullies who tormented her. Horror remake, starring Chloe Grace Moretz and Julianne Moore. **12.00** Johnstone's Paint Trophy Football. **12.55** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Tube: Going Underground. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.50** Great Artists. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four **7.00** Sir Peter Maxwell Davies: Master and Maverick **8.00** Pappano's Classical Voices **9.00** A Fanatic Heart: Geldof on Yeats **10.40** Film: Age of Uprising: The Legend of Michael Kohlhaas (2013) **12.35** Dan Cruickshank: Resuscitating History - Warsaw **1.30** A Fanatic Heart: Geldof on Yeats **2.35** Close **ITV2** **11.30** Take Me Out **12.45** Celebrity Catchphrase **1.45** Film: Peter Pan (2003) **2.45** FYI Daily **2.50** Film: Peter Pan (2003) **3.00** 3.55 Britain's Got More Talent: Top 10 **3.55** Animal Acts **4.55** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **6.25** Film: King Kong (2005) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30** Film: King Kong (2005) **8.00** 10.00 Farm Girls **1.30** Borderline **12.00** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.50** @elevenoch 2.15 Ariana Grande: The Hot Desk **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV Nightscreen **ITV3** **11.00** Film: Columbo: The Bye-Bye Sky-High IQ Murder Case (1977) **12.50** A Touch of Frost **5.00** Midsummer Murders **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Film: Appointment **9.00** Great Estates of Scotland **10.15** Film: The American President (1995) **11.15** FYI Daily **11.20** Film: The American President (1995) **12.35** The Kindness of Strangers **2.05** Wycliffe **3.00** May the Best House Win **4.40** On the Buses **5.35** Judge Judy **5.55** ITV Nightscreen **E4** **6.15** The Goodwood Members Meeting **7.30** Football's Greatest: George Best **7.30** Paw Stars **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Film: Police Academy (1984) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: Police Academy (1984) **11.05** Film: Driven to Kill (2009) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10** Film: Driven to Kill (2009) **1.10** The Swinge **2.05** Ax Men **3.00** Teleshopping **Film4** **11.00** Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer (2011) **1.00** Sunshine on Leith (2013) **3.00** Stuart Little 2 (2002) **4.40** Home Alone (1990) **6.45** Grease 2 (1982) **9.00** Red 2 (2013)

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Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, March 31, 2016

MONDAY

Deadly Suspicion, Channel 5, 3.20pm

The estranged members of the Danville family are reunited when their patriarch, a prominent politician, is murdered. However, one of them is missing – an unstable daughter who was abandoned in a mental institution years before. When news reaches them that she escaped on the night of the killing, they realise she could be the culprit – and they could be next. Thriller, starring Marilu Henner. (2008)

TUESDAY

Stolen Child, Channel 5, 3.20pm

A couple who have tried unsuccessfully to conceive resort to adopting a baby from Eastern Europe. However, their newfound happiness is shattered when they discover the disturbing series of events that brought the child into their lives. Drama, starring Emmanuelle Vaugier and Corbin Bernsen. (2012)



The Living Daylights, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

WEDNESDAY

The Charge of the Light Brigade, BBC2, 1.50pm

A British major and his brother stationed in India during the Crimean War become rivals when they fall in love with the same woman. An allied local ruler betrays the British, carrying out a massacre of civilians and prompting the major to swear revenge on him – ultimately leading a suicidal attack on an enemy artillery position. Fact-based drama, starring Errol Flynn, Olivia de Havilland and Nigel Bruce. (1936)

THURSDAY

Deadly Daycare, Channel 5, 3.25pm

A divorcee suspects a nursery is mistreating her young daughter. Thriller, starring Kayla Ewell. Edited for daytime broadcast. (2014)

FRIDAY

The Living Daylights, ITV, 10.40pm

James Bond crosses the continents to help a KGB agent to defect to the West. While protecting him from an unknown assassin, the super-spy is drawn into the world of arms dealing. Action adventure, with Timothy Dalton making his debut appearance as 007, alongside Maryam d'Abo, Joe Don Baker and Art Malik. (1987)

Marcella faces a deadly blast from the past

In 2014, the Swedish-Danish crime thriller *The Bridge* began a run on BBC Four.

Fans of the series may be interested to know that its creator, Hans Rosenfeldt, is also the man behind this new drama, his first British project.

"Turin is a city in the north of Italy that I don't know much about, but it was there that Marcella was born," reveals Rosenfeldt. "I was there to talk about *The Bridge*, and my thoughts on the remakes that have been made. It's there that I met TV executive Nicola Larder."

"Later, at a very nice dinner, she said she had an idea about a police series set in London, where we meet the protagonist at her lowest ebb, having just been left by her husband, with her kids away at boarding school and a serial killer from the past reappearing. Would I be interested in developing it further? The answer to that, as you've probably guessed, was yes."

Of course, cops on the edge aren't

exactly a rarity – in fact, millions of us have recently been gripped by the second series of *Happy Valley*, in which Sarah Lancashire played Catherine Cawood, a police sergeant still somehow picking herself up and carrying on with her life despite being repeatedly hit by its slings and arrows, including a psychopath determined to grind her down from inside his prison cell.

Here, the action takes place in London rather than West Yorkshire, and focuses on Marcella Backland,

Larder, who claims that it still "feels fresh" to have a female lead character in a major drama series, despite many examples of that happening, including in the aforementioned *Happy Valley*, as well as the likes of *Scott and Bailey* and, of course, the mighty *Prime Suspect*.

"Thankfully her first meeting with us went really well. I felt she had plugged herself into mine and Hans's bodies and she understood this character from the inside out."

Larder also claims that it still "feels fresh" to have a female lead character in a major drama series, despite many examples of that happening, including in the aforementioned *Happy Valley*, as well as the likes of *Scott and Bailey* and, of course, the mighty *Prime Suspect*.

She also neglects to mention the Nordic flavour brought to the BBC's *River* by Stellan Skarsgård, but we'll forgive her these omissions if Marcella lives up to its promise.



Anna Friel stars in Marcella, Monday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Neighbours: Hotel Death Trap**Channel 5, 5.30pm**

It's all kicking off in Erinsborough this week! Over the years viewers have witnessed some extraordinary (and, occasionally, unbelievable moments) during the long-running soap, but those in the know claim that this may top the lot – we're certainly not used to the usually family friendly programme requiring a post-watershed slot. It all begins with everything seemingly ticking over as normal at the Lassiter's leisure complex. Everyone is going about their business, unaware that somebody is tampering with its boiler. As a variety of meetings and assignations get under way – including a secret rendezvous, surprise encounters and the arrival of two mystery men – the boiler explodes, leaving some well-known faces buried and trapped beneath the resulting debris. But who will survive the carnage?

TUESDAY

Murdered By My Father**BBC1, 10.45pm**

In 2014, BBC Three brought us the award-winning one-off drama *Murdered By My Boyfriend*, which explored the issues of domestic abuse. Now the channel is bringing us this powerful drama, which is

airing on TV after receiving its debut online, and tackles the controversial subject of honour violence in Britain. Kiran Sonia Sawar stars as teenager Salma, whose widowed father Shahzad (Adel Akhtar) is determined to find her a suitable husband, and thinks he has picked one in the shape of Haroon (Salman Akhtar). However, Salma has fallen for Imi (Mawaan Rizwan), who urges her to leave her family and marriage arrangements behind in favour of a new life. When Haroon confronts Shahzad about his daughter's actions, the scene is set for more than one tragedy...

WEDNESDAY

The People Next Door**Channel 4, 9pm**

The award-winning team behind *Cyberbully* and *Blackout* are back with another thought-provoking one-off drama that raises some difficult questions. It begins with a young middle-class couple being interviewed by the police following an altercation with their neighbours. A series of flashbacks reveal that parents-to-be Gemma (Joanna Horton) and Richard (Happy Valley's Karl

Davies) moved into their home two months ago and, after hearing sounds of rows and violence through the wall, they begin to suspect that one the neighbours' children is at risk of abuse. When the authorities fail to intervene, Gemma and Richard use increasingly elaborate surveillance methods to find out what is really happening next door. Are their intrusive actions justified if it means protecting a child, or are the snooping couple the real neighbours from hell?

THURSDAY

Millionaires' Mansions**Channel 4, 8pm**

New series. London's housing market is booming, thanks to foreign investors buying property worth more than £100 billion – and as a result the luxury interior design industry is flourishing. This documentary follows three



Murdered By My Father, Tuesday, BBC1, 10.45pm

prestigious designers working for some of the capital's wealthiest clients. They include Joanna Wood, who has been designing houses for royal families and Hollywood film stars for 30 years, and Brian Wade, who has spent the past four-and-a-half years designing a seven-storey Knightsbridge townhouse, with furniture including a stingray-skin coffee table and a chandelier made from Hyde Park leaves dipped in gold.

FRIDAY

Football: Women's Euro 2017 Qualifiers**BBC2, 7.30pm**

There will be no room for complacency for World Cup semi-finalists England tonight as they face Belgium in their latest Euro 2017 Qualifier at Rotherham United's New York Stadium. After the 8-0 drubbing of Estonia in Tallinn, Mark Sampson's Lionesses only just squeezed through their last qualifier 1-0 at home to Bosnia & Herzegovina, thanks to a Jill Scott winner. And they are also looking to bounce back after failing to win any of their three games against Germany, USA and France in last month's inaugural SheBelieves Cup in America. Presenter Jacqui Oatley is joined in the studio by England internationals Kelly Smith and Rachel Brown-Finnis, while commentary is provided by Jonathan Pearce and Sue Smith.

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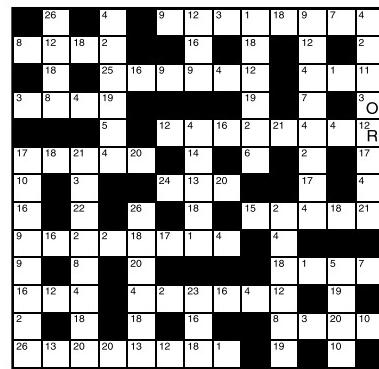
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BRAIN GYM No.371

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
A	K	F	M	W	R	H	V	X	T	Q	G	I	C	S	L	O	U	D	B	Z	E	J	P	N	

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

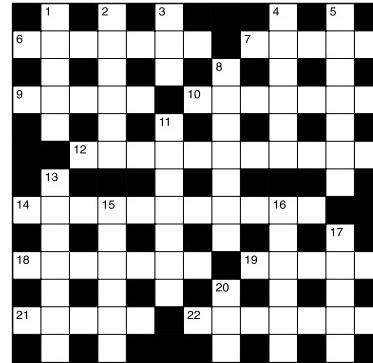
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Be understanding and get along somehow (4,3)
- In the main he gets down to his work (5)
- Frui brought up in a container (3)
- A case of perhaps private possessions? (3-3)
- It's beastly being a long time in one occupation (7)
- Having no saving graces? (11)
- Not a difficult thing to eat? (5,2,4)
- His money may be well-earned! (7)
- One has no right to take things so (5)
- About enough for one shot (5)
- Succeed in losing one's balance? (4,3)

Down

- Obtain part of South Africa by birth? (5)
- Such action will be involuntary (6)
- Frui brought up in a container (3)
- A case of perhaps private possessions? (3-3)
- It's beastly being a long time in one occupation (7)
- He's not free, yet may have time! (7)
- Soldier on a horse or military ship (7)
- Acid criticism (7)
- Stop a letter giving settlement (6)
- Lot of Arabs (6)
- The general idea in current travel (5)
- He has nothing inside for gardeners (3)



Quick Clues:

Across

- Harmed (7)
- Wed (5)
- To object (5)
- Malady (7)
- Secret (11)
- Cows (11)
- Hard-hearted (7)
- Talk (5)
- Trivial (5)
- Bill (7)

Down

- Come in (5)
- Reciprocal (6)
- Lair (3)
- Mourn (6)
- Gift (7)
- Generous (7)
- Old-fashioned (7)
- Incensed (7)
- Creeks (6)
- Use (6)
- Haggard (5)
- Perform (3)

Sudoku

2	1		7			4	9
7			1			3	
4			8		7	2	5
9							
	4	5	9	3	2		
6		4				3	
4			2			6	
8	2		9		1	4	

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >
9 4 6 8 1 3 7 5 2
7 8 2 6 9 5 4 3 1
5 3 1 7 2 4 9 8 6
4 9 3 1 8 5 2 7
8 2 1 3 5 9 6 4 3
2 6 9 5 4 1 9 7 3
1 7 8 9 3 6 2 4 5
3 5 4 2 8 7 1 6 9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Head-waiter; 7 Orbit; 8 Inertia; 10 Not right; 11 Pays; 13 Feeler; 15 Beings; 17 Undo; 18 Lukewarm; 21 Threats; 22 Eaten; 23 Denigrated. Down: 1 Habit; 2 Attained; 3 Weight; 4 Item; 5 Entrain; 6 Found fault; 9 Assessment; 12 Tenement; 14 Endorse; 16 Puzzler; 19 Selected; 20 Tarn; 21 Quick - Aardvark; 22 Interfered; 7 Bedazzler; 10 Intruder; 11 Flag; 13 Abduct; 15 Lesser; 17 Oust; 18 Defender; 21 Younger; 22 About; 23 Tenderness. Down: 1 Fight; 2 Renounce; 3 Billiet; 4 Grab; 5 Nonplus; 6 Obligatory; 9 Regenerate; 12 Venerater; 14 Dispute; 16 Bearer; 19 Dross; 20 Aged.

Thinking space



Quiz

- Who missed the last penalty of World Cup 94?
- Which part of the brain controls balance and coordination?
- Which animal has red, grey and Arctic varieties?
- Of what nationality is golfer Nick Price?
- In which river are the Thousand Islands?
- Who was the father-in-law of Moses?

- Which poet's middle name was Bysshe?
- Which Dutch queen's husband was Prince Bernhard?
- Which French philosopher coined the term 'property is theft'?
- To which family does the okapi belong?

Last week's solutions:
Quiz: 1 WWI; 2 Denmark and Norway; 3 Lothian; 4 The Lion King; 5 Human Immunodeficiency Virus; 6 Napoleon Bonaparte; 7 Month; 8 Danish; 9 John Prescott; 10 Romansch.
Niner: ABUSIVELY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

2359 gives a garment,
581495 gives another garment,
967895 gives a third garment.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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EASTER SALE MUST END THIS WEEKEND



Can't go wrong – the steak and six (count them) chips



Fine dining in the Orangery Restaurant



Picture perfect – the restaurant's picturesque setting



Tasty – goat's cheese and ricotta ravioli

It's fine dining at Moat House but you may have to push the boat out

SET in a 14th century manor house in a quaint rural Staffordshire village, family-run restaurant **The Moat House**, in Acton Trussell, is a beautiful venue.

It's set in splendid surroundings – complete with a moat – and is the perfect destination for an indulgent treat.

Its award-winning Orangery Restaurant is renowned for superior quality, excellent service and stunning presentation; but also its price menu but as the saying goes, you get what you pay for.

The tasting menu, for example, costs £60 each – or £90 each with paired wines carefully selected to complement every dish. Its gourmet menu costs £45 per head, for a four-course meal, complete with amuse-bouche, fresh bread, vegetable panache, filter coffee and petit fours.

By Kirsten Rawlins

The eatery does, however, now have a 'fixed price menu', with three courses priced at £24 between 6.30-7.30pm, Sunday to Friday, making this high-end venue far more affordable for a regular trip.

The food, needless to say, remains every bit as high-quality and delicious as we'd hoped – but more on that later.

My partner and I visited The Moat House on a rainy Thursday evening after a long day at work and, though the pair of us were tired we were immediately put at ease by the attentive staff in the restaurant, complete with sparkling chandeliers and crisp, white tablecloths.

It is often the case that fixed price menus are limited to few options, but The Moat House's list was packed with delicious foods – from pig cheek and cured mackerel

for starters, through to roast guinea fowl, sirloin steak and cod in browned butter for mains. After studying the options, my other half opted for the oriental pig cheek for a starter, and I for the goat's cheese and ricotta ravioli.

My ravioli was cheesy, tender and delicious. The oriental pig cheek, meanwhile, was tender and meaty, marinated in a tasty coating.

Treated

Before the starters arrived, we were treated to a basket of seeded and non-seeded bread, followed by a shot glass of celery and garlic soup.

Due to my desire to try outlandish foods – and my partner's tendency to stick to what he knows – we rarely end up eating the same meals when dining out, but this time around there was no doubt about what

we wanted: the Staffordshire sirloin steak.

And, though the meat was fairly tender, had no gristle and was cooked as we'd requested, it was – for all intents and purposes – a fairly average steak and chips. The dish came with a side of buttery vegetables and six stacked chips.

As it happened, we were full, but the sweets looked too tempting, so we settled for the Valrhona dulce chocolate panna cotta and the banana and caramel arctic roll. And, my goodness, they were the best desserts I think I've ever had the delight of trying.

Considering we visited the restaurant on a Thursday – and by 9pm there was barely a table left – I would certainly recommend booking in advance, especially at weekends.

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Contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 5856667 or visit www.hickshadley.com



Charming cottage with a delightful courtyard



A CHARMING Grade II listed cottage close in a courtyard setting, Trow Cottage, 30 Lax Lane, Bewdley, also has a garage.

It is now for sale through Allan Morris at a reduced price of £199,000 with no chain.

It has an attractive front stable door, entrance hall, lounge, a dining kitchen with a washing machine, dishwasher, fridge, freezer and fitted electric oven with hob over. There is a stable-type door to the rear patio and a courtyard area, first floor bathroom with a white suite, Jack 'n' Jill bathroom, two bedrooms (one previously two singles).

The delightful courtyard setting to the rear is an enclosed haven with mature plants and shrubs, lawns, communal seating area and paved pathways. There is also a patio area and lawn.

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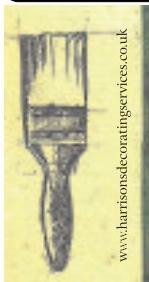
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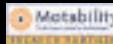
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Nissan is celebrating 20 years of the 'curry hook'

Nissan's advanced driver assistance systems are available on many of its models, including the award-winning Qashqai crossover.

Development of these hi-tech solutions is constantly evolving to improve the ownership experience, but Nissan engineers never forget that a simple approach can be just as effective. This month marks 20 years since the debut of one of its most iconic features – the much-loved 'curry hook'.

The dashboard hook first appeared on the Almera compact family hatchback in March 1996, as a way of keeping hand bags or shopping bags upright. It was quickly dubbed the 'curry hook' by media who recognised it was the perfect way to stop takeaway food from spilling into the car's foot well.

Today, it remains a feature of the brand's crossovers such as the Qash-

qi and X-Trail. All that's changed is the location of the hook; it has moved from the dashboard to the boot.

It's just one of many simple solutions which Nissan has incorporated into its cars to make life easier for the driver. Another is the 'Karakuri' boot board – also known as the Flexi-Board – which is available on the Qashqai, Juke and Note. It allows owners to divide the cargo space according to their needs, and can be arranged in various configurations to support and protect items in transit. When not in use, it cleverly stores out of the way in the boot floor.

Nissan's engineers have put just as much thought into the latest Navara pick-up. For example, it features a 12-volt power socket in the dashboard's upper storage tray – ideal for customers who have their own portable sat-nav device to stick to the windscreen. It means no potentially hazardous trail

of wires across the facia, keeping the driving environment tidy and unobstructed. Cleverly, for customers who choose a Navara with an integrated sat-nav, the socket isn't there.

Such smart thinking isn't a new element of the Nissan 'customer-first' philosophy. In September 1986, when the first Nissan Bluebird rolled off the new production line in Sunderland, UK, it had two analogue trip meters built into the instrument cluster behind the steering wheel.

Why? So business users could easily separate and log their professional and private mileage. A unique feature at the time, it is now standard on the digital read-outs of almost every volume car brand.

Many innovations such as these began life in the minds of the engineering experts at Nissan's European Technical Centre in Cranfield, UK.

SsangYong Korando Sports are full of value



By James Parker

SsangYong is earning a solid reputation for value and quality, and nowhere is this more evident than with its Korando Sports 1 tonne pick-up.

Korean engineered and built, the Korando Sports has a reputation for durability, and is the only pick-up to come with a five year limitless mileage warranty. The range now has three models, the S, SX and EX with prices from just £14,495 - £18,195 (ex VAT).

Based on the top of the range EX automatic, the new Korando Sports DMZ is a limited edition model featuring full camouflage paintwork, roof rails and 18" alloy wheels, and priced at £19,195 (ex VAT).

Paul Williams, CEO of SsangYong Motor UK, said: "With its keen price and comprehensive list of standard equipment, Korando Sports gives you a lot of vehicle for the money – from £14,495 (ex VAT), and the reassurance of a five year limitless mileage warranty for complete peace of mind.

"It can be loaded like a truck yet still drives like a car, and really is the best value pick-up you can buy!"

"The DMZ is a bit of fun. We ordered a short run initially but they were instantly snapped-up by our dealers, so we think it could prove particularly popular with owner drivers."

Korando Sports is powered by SsangYong's e-XDi 2 litre diesel engine, and provides maximum power of 155PS and peak torque of 360Nm delivered between 1,500rpm and 2,800rpm providing ample performance both on and off road, and fuel economy of up to 37.7 mpg on the Combined Cycle*.

The vehicle has very good levels of NVH (noise, vibration and harshness) and comes with on-demand 4-wheel drive, a full 1 tonne payload and a towing capability of up to 2.7 tonnes.

A real workhorse, the pick-up features a large, flat rear deck giving a 2.04m load area to take a Euro pallet, and fitted with load deck liner and anchor points. A range of optional rigid hard tops to provide weather protection and security to the load area is also available.

Also and unusually for the segment, the SsangYong Korando Sports also features a live rear axle supported by a sophisticated multi-link rear suspension system with progressive coil springs to give a comfortable, car like ride, instead of the more dated leaf springs employed on many other pick-ups.

Equipped

In addition to DMZ there are three models to choose from. The S is the lowest priced double cab pick-up on the market at just £14,495 (ex VAT).

The SX is a step up and extremely well equipped with 18" alloy wheels, tinted glass, air conditioning, leather covered steering wheel, remote central locking, an MP3 CD & RDS radio with a USB & auxiliary port and Bluetooth connectivity as well as speed sensitive power assisted steering. The Korando Sports SX costs £15,395 (ex VAT).

The EX also features 18" alloy wheels, and adds the luxury touch of leather upholstery with heated front seats, powered driver's seat, heated, electrically adjustable and power folding door mirrors and rear parking sensors. A Mercedes-Benz 5 speed automatic transmission with cruise control is also available as an option. The EX with manual transmission is £16,995 (ex VAT), and with automatic transmission, £18,195 (ex VAT).

As with all models in the SsangYong range, the new Korando Sports 1 tonne pick-up is covered by a 5 year limitless mileage warranty.

Designed to be totally transparent and give customers complete peace of mind, 'limitless' means just that: not a maximum mileage condition that some brands impose in their small print.

All the major mechanical components are covered including wheel bearings, suspension joints and bushes, steering joints, shock absorbers and even the audio system. Wearable components such as clutch discs and brake friction materials which could have their life reduced by poor driving are covered for one year or 12,000 miles, and the battery and paintwork for three years.

SsangYong cars are manufactured in South Korea by SsangYong Motor, which is 73 per cent owned by the Indian engineering conglomerate Mahindra & Mahindra, and imported into the UK by SsangYong Motor UK. Established in 1954 it is Korea's oldest vehicle manufacturer and only 4x4 and SUV specialist producer.

There are currently some 60 SsangYong dealers covering England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, with new locations being added to the network all the time.

Further information is available from: www.ssangyonggb.co.uk

*Fuel Consumption: Korando Sports manual – Urban: 29.4mpg Extra urban: 44.1mpg Combined: 37.7mpg

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New lease of life for updated SEAT Ibiza

By John Griffiths

It's a sign of the times that SEAT has tagged one of its smallest (in terms of capacity) engines with its sporty 'FR' model designation.

But this isn't any old three cylinder, 999cc petrol unit – it's one of a new generation of small but highly efficient engines where, on demand, turbo charging makes up for the lack of cubic centimetres but gives one litre economy when you're cruising or crawling.

At first sight it doesn't seem that much has changed – the sculpted side panels in particular make it instantly recognisable as a descendant of one of the most popular small cars on our roads. But look more closely and you see the bonnet and boot lines have been cleaned up, and you might notice the new range of colours too.

But it's under the skin where SEAT has spent its development money, with more efficient engines and a significant – and long awaited – upgrade to the interior which will help the Ibiza compete with Johnny-come-lately rivals.

The test model was a 1.0 litre Eco TSi with 110Ps on tap – pretty effective in a small car but also aided by a whole 200Nm of torque thanks to the turbo, so power is delivered more evenly and from lower revs.

It was coupled to the Audi VW Group's excellent DSG automatic gearbox, with seven electronically controlled ratios to ensure you're always in the most efficient ratio for acceleration or economy, depending on your right foot. You can, of course, also change gear manually using the gearstick sequentially or via the up/down paddles behind the steering wheel. For me that's useful to limit speed on a steep descent, or you take full control on a twisty stretch of road, but for the most part the auto system is both rapid and responsive enough for you to leave it doing its job.

That addition of DSG partly explains the £16,140 price tag for this test model, but worth it if you're an auto fan or fed up with pumping your clutch foot up and down in traffic. And it comes without the power and economy drawbacks of older auto transmissions.

But FR also denotes of the highest, and the sportiest, trim levels so it also comes with extra standard equipment including the distinctive twin exhausts, sports front seats, unique 16-inch alloys with low profile tyres, sports suspension, automatic headlights and wipers, cruise control and, of course, a sports style flat-bottomed steering wheel.

There are three other FR engine options, two 1.4 turbo diesels with 90 and 105PS respectively, and the flagship 1.4 TSi with 150PS on tap.

Lively

Compared to normally aspirated, and in many cases smaller one litre cars, the FR's turbo makes it feel lively from the moment you set off, and according to official figures 60mph comes up in an impressive 9.3 seconds.

Line up for an overtake and the DSG system rapidly responds by changing down one or two gears to get you quickly and safely past. Unless you're pressing on, and with the availability of that higher, seventh gear, the engine is barely audible and you're more likely to notice some background noise from the wide, low profile tyres.

According to official laboratory tests, the 1.0 FR is capable of averaging 64.2mpg – and a low, tax-saving 102g/km of CO₂ – but in real world driving and traffic conditions the test car returned a still creditable 50mpg.

The sports suspension doesn't result in a harsh ride, but what it does very well is to sharpen up the Ibiza's handling. It's quick to turn in and holds its line even through bumpy corners which help to make it a fun and rewarding car to drive. The brakes are smooth and powerful too.

Interior and load space of just short of 300 litres haven't changed, but the Ibiza is quite capable of accommodating four in comfort, with the five doors of the test model making access to the rear easier than in three-door versions.

It's in the interior where the major changes have taken place. It feels much higher quality, with switchgear from Ibiza's big brother, the Leon, and a centre colour touchscreen controlling a range of functions. There's also a driver information display between the two principal instruments.

The test car was also kitted out with a number of extras including a first class upgraded sound system (£155), climate control (as opposed to standard aircon) at £220 and rear parking sensors at £220. For £725 the car was also showcasing one of the most sophisticated and comprehensive communications, entertainment and media set-ups available in any small car, all controlled via a central touch screen.

Features include a three-dimensional navigation system with voice control, Bluetooth, MP3 and CD player, SEAT's 'Full Link' system consisting of Mirrorlink, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, capable of integrating with smart phone functions. As with its efficient engines and sharper styling, this technological wizardry shows the competent little Ibiza has undergone more than a facelift. It's given the car a new lease of life to broaden its appeal and tackle the competition head on.

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Police team Elliott Bastable, Pete Gibbons, Carl Southwick, Gavin Sloan, Kev Franklin, and Maria



Maria is congratulated on a previous success



Maria spends hours practising



Still close – Maria with her cousin Ronnie O'Sullivan

Cue Ronnie's cousin who wants to Rocket ahead

SPORTING FEATURE

By Nick Elwell

"The ladies' game has struggled since it started, really. The difference in prize money is crazy."

AS one member of the family continues to make the news, Maria Catalano is hoping she will be a headline act in April.

The 33-year-old from Netherton will be striving to win her first world snooker championship after finishing runner-up on five occasions – just a couple of weeks before her cousin Ronnie O'Sullivan bids for his sixth crown at the famous Crucible venue in Sheffield.

Catalano's shot at glory will take place in the more low-key surroundings of the Northern Snooker Centre in Leeds as the women's game fights to break down the barriers of a male-dominated sport.

Encourage

But the current world No. 4 is hoping that the days where the ladies' efforts are overlooked will soon be a thing of the past. The World Ladies Billiards and Snooker Limited (WLBS) was formed last year to encourage participation from grassroots level and raise the profile of the women's game, joining forces with the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association.

Dudley's world No. 1 – and Catalano's close friend – Reanne Evans caused a stir last year when she pushed former world champion Ken Doherty in a 10-8 loss in the qualifying event for last year's world championships. And Hong Kong's Ng On Yee will be in the qualifying tournament this time around.

"The WLBS has been formed and the World Profes-

sional Billiards and Snooker Association have taken us under their wing," said Catalano, who plays on the local circuit for West Midlands Police in the Stourbridge League and Woodfield in the West Midlands League.

"The ladies' game has struggled since it started, really. The women's game needs more exposure and they seem to have big plans. The difference in prize money is crazy. For our world championships it was £1,500 for the winner last year – the men's was £300,000."

For the time being Catalano has to be content with chasing the meagre offerings in tournaments around the country while working for the family business, Antonio's Ice Cream.

"I have never been able to take the game full-time because I have never had a sponsor," she added.

Her love of the game is obvious. "I was about five

or six and I remember having a snooker table cake for my birthday," she laughed.

"Obviously my family were interested in the sport with Ronnie playing. I saw him doing well and earning a few quid and thought I want to try that. We all used to watch it on the TV and I was a big Steve Davis fan."

While her friends were out and about, Catalano was chalking up the hours on the green baize. "I started to play at Brierley Hill Snooker Club and that was it. I played every single night. I fell in love with it straight away."

Even success on the American pool circuit failed to tempt her away. "I won the Florida State Championships, which is a big event, and qualified for the US Open. But pool is not for me."

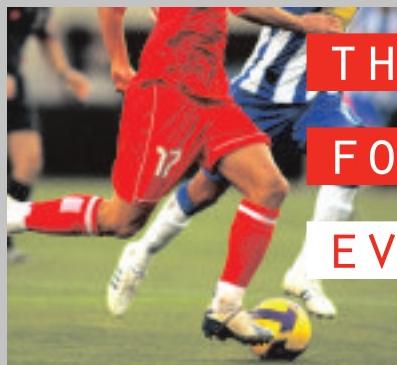
And Catalano, who beat her idol Davis in an exhibition match last year and teamed up with Evans to defeat Shaun Murphy and Mark Selby in a promotional event last month, has never felt out of place among male team-mates and opponents.

A few tips from O'Sullivan helped along the way and the pair are still in regular contact.

"He is just very special. I would say he is the best ever. I know he causes a bit of controversy now and again, but he is a genius."

Catalano will be cheering O'Sullivan on at the Crucible as usual, but for now is focused on her own shot at world glory after missing last year.

"The ambition is still there and I am going to win it one day, definitely."



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Ronnie's cousin is on cue to rocket ahead

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Heathens in perfect start to the season

CRADLEY kicked off their season in perfect fashion with a 51-39 win over Belle Vue on their Monmore Green return.

Star duo Max Clegg and Ashley Morris both went unbeaten as the Heathens disposed of the National League newcomers to claim all three points.

Skipper Clegg saw off former team-mate Matt Williamson to win the opening race of the night – setting the tone for a powerful performance as the home side accounted for 12 race winners to come out on top.

The two sides traded heat advantages in the early stages, but when Morris picked off the exciting Daniel Bewley to win heat four it gave them some breathing space. Two more classy wins for the heat-leader pair kept the Heathens ahead at halfway before debutants James Purchase and Ben Basford made a breakthrough with a crucial 5-1 in heat eight.

Purchase dusted himself down from a nasty fall after he was wiped out by the enthusiastic Bewley in the original staggering to claim a composed race win in the re-run – his first since returning to the sport after a decade-long absence.

The Heathens looked set to strike another devastating 5-1 in the next race as middle order duo Luke Chessel and Jack Kingston stormed from the tapes to hit the front. However, Kingston picked up some unexpected grip entering the final lap and was sent flying awkwardly into the fence on the back straight.

Cradley nonetheless came on strong in the closing stages, with Morris and Clegg striking timely 5-1s in heats 13 and 15 to wrap up victory and prevent the Colts from taking a consolation point.

CRADLEY: Max Clegg 15, Ashley Morris 13+2, Luke Chessel 11, Ben Basford 5+1, James Purchase 5, Jack Kingston 1, Bradley Andrews 1.

BELLE VUE: Daniel Bewley 11+1, Rob Shuttleworth 8+1, Matt Williamson 8, Lee Payne 4, Andy Mellish 2+, David Holt 2.

No third time lucky as Twickenham date eludes Lions again

Wolverhampton 16 Stourbridge 5

THE Lions lost 16-5 at the final hurdle in the Midlands area RFU Intermediate Cup and Twickenham is still a step too far for the Lions for the third time.

However, amongst the bruised bodies and tired limbs will be the knowledge that they put up a valiant fight and pushed the home side to the limit.

Against the wind in the first half the Lions kept Wolverhampton to only three penalty goals and after going down to a converted try early in the second they scored their own try and the final points of the match.

An infringement gave the Wolves 10 Ben Barnes the chance to open the scoring. The rest of the first half was closely contested. However, two further Barnes penalties gave Wolves a 9-0 half-time lead.

The second half opened disastrously, with the Lions conceding an early Rhys Morgan try, converted, from a tap penalty after consistent Wolves pressure.

With 10 minutes left the Lions finally got the try their pressure deserved from no.8 James Meakin.

Yeltz claim spoils in derby clash

Halesowen Town 2 Stourbridge 0

A BUMPER Bank Holiday attendance of 2,107 saw Halesowen put a huge dent in rivals Stourbridge's play-off hopes.

In a lively and tense start, Aaron Griffiths' shot was beaten away by Stourbridge goalkeeper Matthew Gould and Halesowen cleared from Karl Hawley in the 10th minute.

The game truly burst into life just before the interval when home substitute Dan Sweeney fired the Yeltz into a 38th minute lead.

The Glassboys squandered a glorious chance to level from the spot just three minutes later after

Football

Ashley Parsons-Smith fouled Hawley on the turn, but Hawley ballooned his kick over the bar. Further Stourbridge chances to equalise went begging before the interval.

Stourbridge failed to make much impression on the solid home defence in the second half with Hawley denied after an hour with his back to goal just one yard out before Sean Geddies dragged a long shot wide.

The Yeltz doubled their lead in the 80th minute after Danny Bragoli's shot was well saved by

Gould but substitute Dumitru Maradona Chiriac marked his home debut by following up to score from the rebound.

Though this has been another fine season at Stourbridge, there is also no denying failure to reach the Evo-Stik Northern Premier play-offs would be a disappointment. The Glassboys had boosted their hopes two days previously with a 3-0 home win over Buxton, all the goals coming in the last half an hour from Justin Richards, Karl Hawley and Dan Scarf.

Yeltz returned from Darlington 1883 with a 2-1 defeat. Michael Turner had given Yeltz the lead.

Cricket team stepping up preparations

HALESOWEN'S senior cricket sides will step up their preparations for the new season next week.

After a short break from training over Easter, players and coaches will move outdoors for fitness and fielding work ahead of the opening friendly with Droitwich at Seth Somers Park on Saturday week, April 9.

Skipper Richard Brooker said: "The lads are really looking forward to getting outside now."

"The ground is looking in great nick and the new kit arrived this week."

"Without doubt we will really look the part this season now we have to go out and play the part by getting into the season with some notable performances."

Shaz Gill will lead out the squad on Sunday, April 10 at home to Stourport, which will give a number of other players a run-out as league season fast approaches.

Meanwhile the club have only a few places remaining for their Easter coaching programme next week. The two-day academy, on Thursday and Friday (April 7/8) from 10am to 3pm each day, is for youngsters aged eight-to-18, so anyone interested is asked to quickly book their place.

Head of Youth Cricket Carl Bust and his assistants will be putting the players through their paces in batting, bowling, fielding and wicket-keeping.

There will be group sessions and where appropriate some one-to-one training for all players using the field and the practice areas.

The two-day course is priced at £35 with a one-day fee of £20 but ideally players will benefit from the full two-day course.

For more details and booking information contact Carl Bust on cb-cricketcoach@gmail.com or go to the Halesowen CC website.

Stars of past line up for Pears skipper

CRICKETING stars of the past will return to New Road for a match in aid of Worcestershire captain Daryl Mitchell's Benefit Season.

The 30-over game takes place at 2pm on Sunday September 4 as a Pears Legends XI takes on local rivals the Bears. The Pears team includes a number of well-known former county players including Ben Smith, Kabir Ali, Richard Stemp, Vikram Solanki, Martin Weston, Gareth Andrew and Hartley Alleyne. The Bears will be captained by Paul Smith.

Side attractions include stalls, food, music and rides. For more details, call Mark Ashbourne on 07506 747619.

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ON THE ROAD FOR SUCCESS

HALESOWEN Cycling Club is looking to plug the gap between aspiring young riders and making it in the professional sport, starting with a burgeoning academy.

The club has a long and proud history of producing top-level talent through their ranks, with Olympic and Paralympic stars Jess Varnish and Helen Scott both graduating.

The conveyor belt shows no signs of halting as Emily Kay and Emily Nelson have both landed junior world titles in recent years and are members of Great Britain's cycling academy.

Club chairman Dave Viner and fellow committee member William Fotheringham, who heads the academy set-up, believe the addition of an academy gives the riders more of a chance to make the grade. The academy is open to riders – road, track or cyclocross – between the ages of 16-23, male and female.

The six current members, Charles Walker, Patrick Fotheringham, Oliver Dighton, Jack Stanton-Warren, Tom Swingler and Joe Hobbs have all benefited from the year or so as part of the Manor Abbey Stadium academy set-up. The team consists of a first year junior, two first year under-23s and two second year under-23s.

Better

"We've always produced riders to go on and do better things at Halesowen," said road team manager Fotheringham.

"Five of our former women ride nationally and there are three men in really good elite teams. It's astonishing really, the success we've had."

"We've found that the transition, particularly for male riders, from under-14 and under-16 to senior level can be tough and there's a big drop-out rate."

"It's about us providing the support to them and helping them progress in any way we can."

The academy has been well-supported since its creation last year.

"We've been able to expand in the second year and add new talent," said Fotheringham. "There's even been our first winner with Charlie winning an event in Milton Keynes."

The primary target for the academy riders will



Oliver Dighton, Jack Stanton-Warren, Patrick Fotheringham, Tom Swingler, Charles Walker, Joe Hobbs

be the Halesowen Road Race on May 8. Delighted chairman Viner added: "Behind the scenes cycling is very team orientated. There's more that the spectators don't see."

"Decisions and tactics in cycling are so subtle. Things like bridging gaps in times and giving your best riders the easier rides."

The academy will allow the youngsters to train together more often and improve team bonding."

Halesowen Cycling Club has been in action in the Evesham Vale Road race held in Inkberrow, the first of the Midlands season road races and one which always attracts a high quality field.

A field of 80 riders set off for the 55-mile road race, won by ex-Halesowen rider Jacob Tipper, who now coaches several Halesowen riders while also riding professionally for Pedal Heaven.

This was Halesowen rider Oliver Dighton's first senior road race having graduated from the club's youth ranks and he finished well, contesting the secondary places along with Halesowen Academy team mate Hobbs.

Hobbs and Dighton were the two Halesowen Road Race team members racing in the Category 3/4 race at Darley Moor. They were among the 120 riders lined up on the 1.5 mile circuit just south of Ashbourne in Derbyshire. Hobbs came in around 15th with Dighton just behind in 17th.

Halesowen ladies took part in a 60k sportive ride starting at Bartley Green reservoir in aid of St Mary's Hospice. The ladies did the club proud by turning out in numbers and tackling several climbs over Clent to Chaddesley Corbett before returning back to Bartley Green via Bromsgrove.

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SsangYong Korando Sports are full of value

By James Parker

SsangYong is earning a solid reputation for value and quality, and nowhere is this more evident than with its Korando Sports 1 tonne pick-up.

Korean engineered and built, the Korando Sports has a reputation for durability, and is the only pick-up to come with a five year limitless mileage warranty. The range now has three models, the S, SX and EX with prices from just £14,495 - £18,195 (ex VAT).

Based on the top of the range EX automatic, the new Korando Sports DMZ is a limited edition model featuring full camouflage paintwork, roof rails and 18" alloy wheels, and priced at £19,195 (ex VAT).

Paul Williams, CEO of SsangYong Motor UK, said: "With its keen price and comprehensive list of standard equipment, Korando Sports gives you a lot of vehicle for the money – from £14,495 (ex VAT), and the reassurance of a five year limitless mileage warranty for complete peace of mind.

"It can be loaded like a truck yet still drives like a car, and really is the best value pick-up you can buy!"

"The DMZ is a bit of fun. We ordered a short run initially but they were instantly snapped-up by our dealers, so we think it could prove particularly popular with owner drivers."

Korando Sports is powered by SsangYong's e-XDi 2 litre diesel engine, and provides maximum power of 155PS and peak torque of 360Nm delivered between 1,500rpm and 2,800rpm providing ample performance both on and off road, and fuel economy of up to 37.7 mpg on the Combined Cycle*.

The vehicle has very good levels of NVH (noise, vibration and harshness) and comes with on-demand 4-wheel drive, a full 1 tonne payload and a towing capability of up to 2.7 tonnes.

A real workhorse, the pick-up features a large, flat rear deck giving a 2.04m load area to take a Euro pallet, and fitted with load deck liner and anchor points. A range of optional rigid hard tops to provide weather protection and security to the load area is also available.

Also and unusually for the segment, the SsangYong Korando Sports also features a live rear axle supported by a sophisticated multi-link rear suspension system with progressive coil springs to give a comfortable, car like ride, instead of the more dated leaf springs employed on many other pick-ups.

Equipped

In addition to DMZ there are three models to choose from. The S is the lowest priced double cab pick-up on the market at just £14,495 (ex VAT).

The SX is a step up and extremely well equipped with 18" alloy wheels, tinted glass, air conditioning, leather covered steering wheel, remote central locking, an MP3 CD & RDS radio with a USB & auxiliary port and Bluetooth connectivity as well as speed sensitive power assisted steering. The Korando Sports SX costs £15,395 (ex VAT).

The EX also features 18" alloy wheels, and adds the luxury touch of leather upholstery with heated front seats, powered driver's seat, heated, electrically adjustable and power folding door mirrors and rear parking sensors. A Mercedes-Benz 5 speed automatic transmission with cruise control is also available as an option. The EX with manual transmission is £16,995 (ex VAT), and with automatic transmission, £18,195 (ex VAT).

As with all models in the SsangYong range, the new Korando Sports 1 tonne pick-up is covered by a 5 year limitless mileage warranty.

Designed to be totally transparent and give customers complete peace of mind, 'limitless' means just that: not a maximum mileage condition that some brands impose in their small print.

All the major mechanical components are covered including wheel bearings, suspension joints and bushes, steering joints, shock absorbers and even the audio system. Wearable components such as clutch discs and brake friction materials which could have their life reduced by poor driving are covered for one year or 12,000 miles, and the battery and paintwork for three years.

SsangYong cars are manufactured in South Korea by SsangYong Motor, which is 73 per cent owned by the Indian engineering conglomerate Mahindra & Mahindra, and imported into the UK by SsangYong Motor UK. Established in 1954 it is Korea's oldest vehicle manufacturer and only 4x4 and SUV specialist producer.

There are currently some 60 SsangYong dealers covering England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, with new locations being added to the network all the time.

Further information is available from: www.ssangyonggb.co.uk



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Cost New £20,485



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OUR PRICE £16,999

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Garmin® Sat Nav Optional £500

Cost New £22,350



- 17" alloys
- privacy glass
- DAB radio
- 2 x USB connectors
- Honda Connect System
- front & rear parking sensors

CIVIC TOURER 1.6 SR DIESEL

OUR PRICE £18,999

SAVE £7,616

Cost New £26,615



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